

Sad services in Lockerbie as the searching goes on



A tearful girl after Mass in Lockerbie yesterday.

By Staff Reporters

Crash investigators, airlines and aircraft manufacturers were last night becoming increasingly worried that the crash of the Pan Am jumbo jet at Lockerbie could have been caused by some kind of catastrophic structural failure rather than a bomb, as was first thought.

The Queen made an unprecedented addition to her traditional Christmas Day message to talk of "the many homes today where the joy of Christmas has been darkened by a cloud of sadness and grief".

disappearance of an Air India 747 off Ireland three years ago, was raising fears that the aircraft was suddenly ripped apart in the sky as a result of an unknown failure in the main fuselage, just behind the flight deck.

which, from the pattern of the impact area, appears to have been missing as the aircraft went into the ground. This had led to theories that it could have been knocked off as the nose section tore away from the main wreckage, shortly before the impact, and may have been blown by the wind into the sea just south of the crash site.

for his son for three days after Pan Am told him he had been killed on board Flight 103. On Saturday his son, a serviceman, telephoned from Germany, unaware that the airline had confused his name with that of someone else.

North Sea oil output hit by drifting tanker

Fears of 25% cut in overall production

By Andrew Morgan, Mark Soaster and David Brewerton

Britain's North Sea oil fields were today facing a massive loss of production after a giant floating storage vessel serving three fields broke from its moorings.

The vessel will be examined in Stavanger and assessed for damage, which we believe to be minimal but it could take several weeks to get it back in position because it is unique in the North Sea.

The loss of production will be relatively temporary, but taken with Piper Alpha, represents a serious blow to Britain's balance of payments at a time when the trade gap is heading for £15 billion.

The vessel will be examined in Stavanger and assessed for damage, which we believe to be minimal but it could take several weeks to get it back in position because it is unique in the North Sea.

The loss of production will be relatively temporary, but taken with Piper Alpha, represents a serious blow to Britain's balance of payments at a time when the trade gap is heading for £15 billion.

The loss of production will be relatively temporary, but taken with Piper Alpha, represents a serious blow to Britain's balance of payments at a time when the trade gap is heading for £15 billion.

The loss of production will be relatively temporary, but taken with Piper Alpha, represents a serious blow to Britain's balance of payments at a time when the trade gap is heading for £15 billion.

The loss of production will be relatively temporary, but taken with Piper Alpha, represents a serious blow to Britain's balance of payments at a time when the trade gap is heading for £15 billion.

Sandringham Christmas for Royal Family



The Queen and 25 other members of the Royal Family were greeted by a huge crowd when they attended a service in St Mary Magdalene Church, Sandringham yesterday.

Peace call to Israel

Mubarak offers talks

From Richard Owen in Jerusalem and Nicholas Beeson in London

Israel yesterday moved swiftly to welcome an offer by President Mubarak of Egypt to Israel for talks on Middle East peace for the first time since he came to power.

Israel yesterday moved swiftly to welcome an offer by President Mubarak of Egypt to Israel for talks on Middle East peace for the first time since he came to power.

Israel yesterday moved swiftly to welcome an offer by President Mubarak of Egypt to Israel for talks on Middle East peace for the first time since he came to power.

On preserving one's sang-froid.

Undoubtedly, January's Sales offer a gentleman the chance to make many a judicious purchase. But is not the jostling of the crowd too high a price to pay for them?

Table with 3 columns: Original Price, Sale Price, and item description (e.g., 2-piece suits, Wool blazers).

GIEVES & HAWKES No. 1 Savile Row, London The Gentleman's Sale. Starts 27th December: No. 1 Savile Row, London, 1-7 St. Michael's Row, Chester.

Season of warmth

It has been the warmest Christmas for years. The temperature in London on Christmas Eve reached 14C (57.2F), the highest since 1940, and yesterday, with a maximum temperature of 12C (54F), was the warmest Christmas Day since 1974.



Third dimension to the technology of television

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent. Anyone flagging under the strain of hours of Christmas television-watching can benefit from a breakthrough in entertainment technology by Professor Fergus Campbell of Cambridge University.

"visual cues" — as objects come closer they appear to get larger and to move across the field of vision faster. In addition, our eyes see slightly different images which the brain translates into a single image a certain distance away, giving our perception of depth.

around the edges, with the hole in the middle about 10 per cent smaller than the screen itself, said Professor Campbell. Three-dimensional images should appear when the frame is fixed about 10 inches from the screen.

INSIDE First Light Charades TOMORROW Early Times Portfolio INDEX

Home News 2-4 Overseas 5-7 Business 17-19 Sport 19-24 Archaeology 13 Births, marriages, deaths 13 Court & social 12 Crosswords 14,24 Entertainment 14 Features 8-10 Fiction 14 Information 14 Law Report 18 Leading articles 11 Letters 13 Nature Notes 13 Obituary 12 Science Report 12 TV & Radio 15 Universities 13 Weather 24 Wills 12

Faithful and curious are drawn together for Catholic worship in China and Italy

Papal plea on sad burden of Aids

From Roger Boyes, Rome
The Pope yesterday used his traditional Christmas day message to make an unusually direct appeal on behalf of Aids victims, urging the world to "take up their tragic burden".

with everyone's help may the work of reconstruction begin so that hope may spring again in that sorely afflicted region.
But the Christmas message also had something important to say about rejection - the fact that Joseph and Mary were forced to live in a stable in Bethlehem - and the need to overcome prejudice.



The Pope, holding his pastoral staff, stands on the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica after delivering his Christmas Day message yesterday. Moved by the recent spate of world disasters, he combined the theme of the joy at the birth of Christ with the misery of many.

Non-believers in Peking flock to Midnight Mass

From Catherine Sampson, Peking
Thousands of the simply curious and some non-Catholics who wanted to witness Christian rites, mainly university students, flocked to Midnight Masses in Peking's churches on Christmas Eve, despite warnings that non-believers would not be admitted.

ing a resurgence of interest in the Christian faith and have slowly begun to open again after the total closure imposed in the Cultural Revolution.
Officials also have relaxed their denunciation of anyone who professes Christianity, and during the past year it has been argued in at least one newspaper article that religion should be tolerated because it improves worker productivity.

Glimmer of light penetrates gloom over Bethlehem
From Richard Owen, Jerusalem
It was a Christmas when the only street decorations were put up by Israeli Jews, not by Arab Christians.
It was a Christmas when Arab leaders - from Mr Elias Freij, the Mayor of Bethlehem, to Archbishop Michel Sabbah, the Roman Catholic Patriarch - found little to celebrate and much to grieve over because of Israeli actions against the intifada in the occupied territories this year.

No homebuilder shows more signs of quality



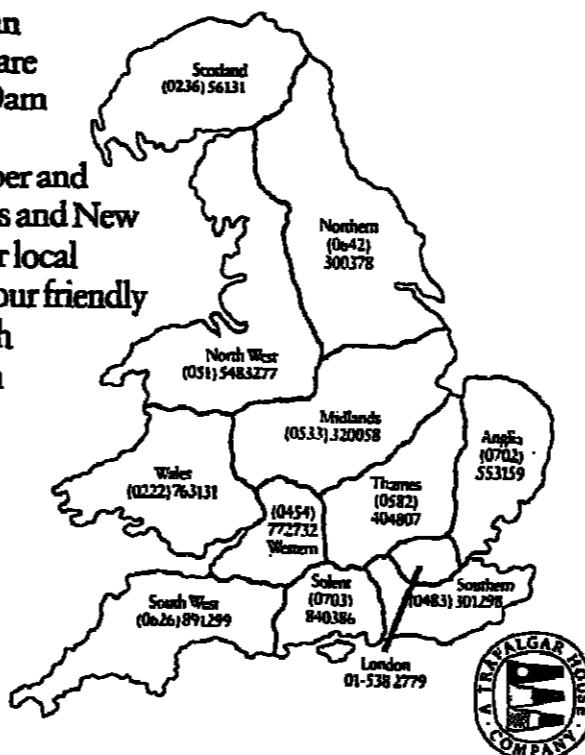
Westfield Manor Four Oaks Sutton Coldfield, Broadlands Hackenhorpe Sheffield, Foxhollows Wigston Leicester, Nightingale Court Ipswich, The Pippins Milton Keynes



Tylcha Canal Tonyrefail, The Moorings Searcross Exeter, High Street Newton Poppleford Exeter, Weybrook Park Burpham Guildford, Roughwood Park Hawley Hall Wigan

At Ideal Homes we've always prided ourselves on the quality of our building. This year once again that quality has been recognised by the National House-Building Council.
Ideal Homes have won an unprecedented 2 Regional Awards and 11 Top 100 Awards - more than any other housebuilder this year.

Throughout the country there are 180 Ideal Homes developments offering a wide range of quality housing in a wide range of different styles. There's never been a better time to buy an Ideal Home than now. All our sales offices are open daily between 10.00am and 4.00pm from Wednesday 28th December and throughout the Christmas and New Year period.



Ideal Homes logo

46 die in rail crash

Peking (Reuter) - At least 46 people were killed and 63 injured when an express train hit a crowded bus on an unmanned crossing in Shenyang city in north-east China at the weekend, state radio said.

Murder record

New York (AP) - At least seven Christmas Eve murders pushed New York City's 1988 homicide total to a record 1,842, with a week left in the year still to go, officials said.

Wages boost

Khartoum (AFP) - One million public sector employees are to get a pay rise which will increase their minimum wage by 500 per cent.

Bus hostages

Delhi (AFP) - Suspected Sikh militants, armed with automatic rifles, took six Hindus hostage after holding up a bus in northern Punjab state.

Governor hurt

Pierre, South Dakota (AP) - Governor George Mickelson, aged 47, is in hospital in a serious condition after falling off a snowmobile into a ravine.

Dali home

Figueras (Reuter) - The Spanish painter, Salvador Dali, went home from hospital after further treatment for internal bleeding.

Death crash

Brussels (Reuter) - Five people were killed and one critically injured when a stolen car carrying weapons crashed near Mons.

Waste threat

Lagos (Reuter) - Nigeria will jail for life anyone found guilty of dumping toxic waste or encouraging others to do so, the News Agency of Nigeria reported.

Snap check

Colombo (AFP) - Sri Lankan troops stopped and searched a man they feared was carrying a weapon hidden in his trouser pocket - but found the bulge was a baby crocodile.

Christmas-time captivity in foreign jails

LEBANON

From Juan Carlos Gumacio, west Beirut

It was supposed to be "the Christmas of the hostages", some kind of reconciliation between Lebanon and the rest of the world through the release of foreigners languishing in the darkest cellars of Beirut. Instead, what came out were cruel reminders that hope is barely a mirage in Lebanon.

For months it seemed certain that the suffering of the hostages was nearing an end. The ceasefire in the Gulf war last July and Iran's subsequent improvement of relations with the West—illustrated by the release of three French and two West German hostages—had strengthened the possibility of a gradual release of 21 other foreigners before the end of the year.

London's rapprochement with Tehran had led many to believe that Mr Terry Waite, Mr John McCarthy and Mr Brian Keenan would probably have been the first to regain their freedom.

But, as it turned out, it was only an illusion nourished by politicians whose hypotheses and wishful predictions ignored the entanglements of the region and Lebanon's incompensable ability to sink into new depths of its Mr Terry Waite, pictured in a black and white photograph, had been a prisoner of war since 1985. He is still held hostage, credited as a

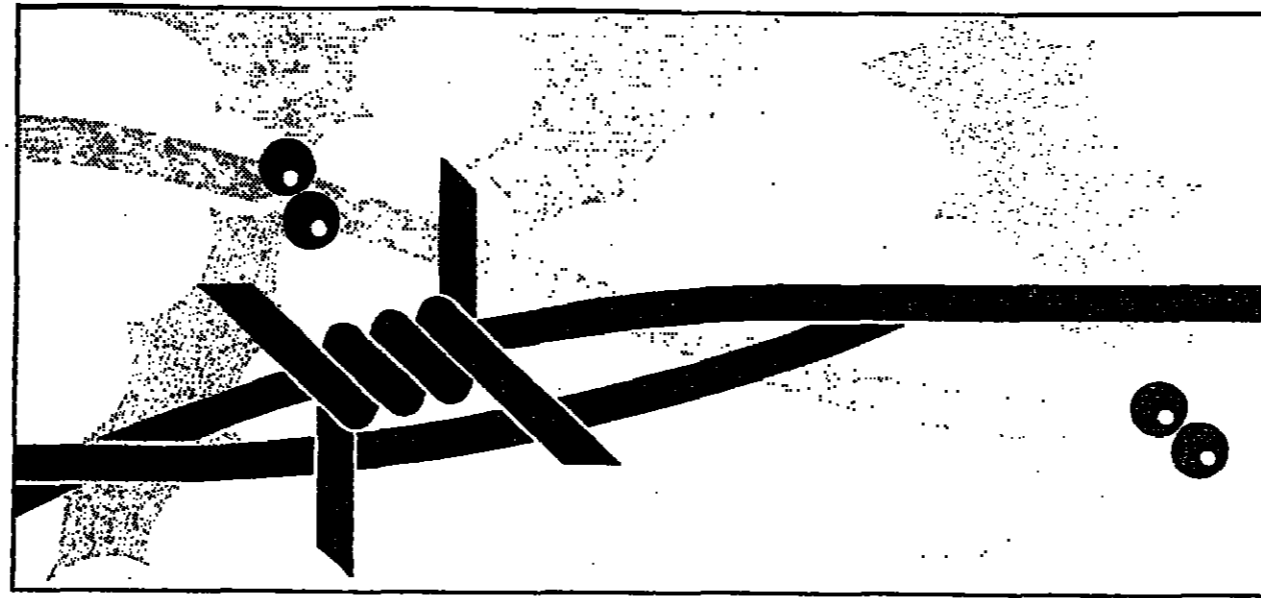
US was counting on its newly re-established dialogue with the Syrians to get Mr Terry Anderson and eight compatriots home for Christmas via Damascus. Despite Syria's campaign against the Shia Muslim extremists of the Hezbollah, he remains the longest-held foreign captive.

The US-based Journalists' Committee to Free Terry Anderson has called on his captors to release him and his fellow captives in a letter published in local newspapers. Yesterday, the American journalist spent his fourth Christmas somewhere in the southern suburbs of Beirut, perhaps even aware that his fate and that of his fellow hostages looks as grim as ever.

Not only are they trapped in the battles between Hezbollah and the Amal militia, but it is unthinkable that Mr George Bush, when he takes over the presidency, will engage in negotiations with the captors, since that could reopen wounds of the Iran-Contra affair.

What continues to play against Mr Waite and the two other British hostages, is Mrs Thatcher's opposition to restore diplomatic relations with Damascus, which has been a valuable intermediary in the release of Americans, Frenchmen, West Germans, a South Korean and, more recently, an Indian teacher.

More than 1,600 Britons passed Christmas Day in foreign jails, about half of them for drug-related offences. The National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad is working with the Red Cross to provide food parcels for as many as possible; but for others in captivity around the world at Christmas can renew only a sense of isolation rather than a faith. Correspondents of *The Times* report on some of those spending Christmas in political detention.



Failure to recognize Syria's President Assad as a key player in the region will certainly discourage any good will gesture from Damascus. Iranian promises to help win the release of the hostages remain subject to conditions almost impossible to meet. Tehran wants Western pressure on the Christian right-

wing Lebanese forces militia to admit it murdered three kidnapped Iranians in 1982. If there were any hopes that the captors could show some compassion or willingness to "reward" the West for its support to the Palestinians, they too have collapsed in the recent chain of events that seem to herald a new wave of strong anti-Western sentiments in Lebanon.

Perhaps the most ominous sign came five days before Christmas, when the International Committee of the Red Cross took the unprecedented step of suspending operations in an area of conflict and evacuated its 17 remaining Swiss staff from Lebanon after death threats.

Diplomats of other European countries, which have endorsed Mr Amfat's diplomatic strategy, are taking extraordinary precautions against what one of them described as a possible campaign of reprisals by Palestinian radicals opposed to the PLO chairman.

IRAN

By Nicholas Beeston

An eerie silence has descended this winter on Tehran's Evin prison, where two British prisoners, Mr Roger Cooper and Mr Nicholas Nicola, spent another bleak Christmas.

The relative quiet of the sprawling security prison is accounted for by four months of mass executions of Iranian political prisoners.

The silence has served to remind the British inmates that those moderates who hold the key to their freedom are no closer to gaining power. In central Tehran, two British diplomats, Mr Gordon Pirie and Mr Victor Welborn, are reopening the Embassy for business, but their priority last week was to gain consular access to the Britons and to try to provide them with a turkey dinner.

In spite of a protest earlier this month by three generations of Coopers—his mother, brother and daughter—outside the Iranian Embassy in London seeking his release before Christmas, negotiations seem set to last well into the New Year.

The problem appears to centre on Mr Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the hardline Interior Minister, who is opposed to moves by

moderate forces to re-establish ties with the West.

British diplomats are always treated cordially by the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but the lobbying appears to have brought the two no closer to freedom.

Mr Cooper, aged 53, who had been based in Iran as a freelance journalist and businessman until the revolution in 1979, arrived in Tehran in the summer of 1985.

Revolutionary Guards arrested him that December 7 on the pretext that he had deliberately overstayed the time he had been granted to stay in Iran. He has never been formally charged, and his case, which appeared at first to be a straightforward misunderstanding, moved within months into the realms of international politics. Iranian television has showed him "confessing" to spying.

Mr Nicola, aged 28, presents a more confusing picture. He was arrested on September 15, 1986, on the Pakistani border by Iranian police who claim he was shooting at passing vehicles. He, too, has never been charged or brought to trial, their captors wanting to use them for political ransom.



Mr Cooper "confessing" on Iran television in February.

CHILDREN IN JAIL

By David Rowan

Unlike most eight-year-old boys Amonissa Issa did not spend Christmas at home with his family—unless the Central Prison in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, can be called "home".

His mother, Mrs Namat Issa, was seven months pregnant when she was arrested in February, 1980; and although no official reason has been given for her arrest, her son has never known life outside prison, and he has never seen his father, Mr Mulugetta Issa, held in a separate prison.

A member of the Oromo ethnic community, Mrs Issa was a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until her detention.

Five years ago, Amonissa contracted a viral infection, thought to have been cerebral meningitis, which damaged his brain, leaving him mentally handicapped. Apart from weekly visits to a hospital for therapy, his life is limited to the women's section of the Central Prison.

To those children unwittingly caught in political conflicts the festive season brings little peace, goodwill or charity. A child's vulnerability and innocence provide no protection against imprisonment, torture or death, despite international conventions.

A report from Amnesty International this year highlighted the case of the several thousand South African children, some also as young as seven, who have been arrested under the state of emergency declared in June, 1985.

The report also condemned the "disappearance" of children in Argentina, Sri Lanka and Peru, following seizure by government forces, and called for the most basic rights of children to be honoured.

Nor do the children of "disappeared" parents find the suffering easy to accept.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Levko Lukyanenko, a Ukrainian lawyer, has still to enjoy the fruits of *glasnost*. At present in internal exile, he has spent 26 years in prison for expressing opinions that are "dangerous crimes against the state".

After graduating from Moscow University, Mr Lukyanenko practised in the Ukrainian city of Lvov from 1958 to 1960. He was first arrested in 1961 and accused of belonging to an unofficial group advocating a referendum on the secession of the Ukraine, a right set down in the Soviet constitution.

Convicted of "treason", "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and "participating in an anti-Soviet organization", he was sentenced to death, later commuted to 15 years' imprisonment.

On his release in 1976, Mr Lukyanenko was prevented from practising law and kept under strict curfew. He joined a new unofficial group formed to monitor how far the Soviet Government respected the 1975 Helsinki Accord on human rights, which led to a further conviction in December 1977 for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

His 15-year sentence included 10 years in the corrective labour colony, Camp VS 389/36-1, where "especially dangerous recidivists" work eight hours a day assembling electronic components. Exercise is restricted to an hour a day and only two annual visits are permitted.

According to Amnesty International, 1988 has seen a record number of releases of prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union.

But the organization claims to have details of about 140 other cases, including approximately 20 psychiatric detentions on political grounds.

SOUTH AFRICA

From Michael Horshy, Johannesburg

South Africa's most famous prisoner, Nelson Mandela, aged 70, will today spend his 27th Christmas in the custody of prison authorities; whether he will ever again enjoy complete political and physical freedom is open to conjecture.

Earlier this month, in the latest stage in what has been called "freedom by instalment", Mandela was moved to a house on a prison estate near the wine-growing town of Paarl in the Western Cape, and told that he could receive visits from members of his family on "a continuous basis".

So far Mrs Winnie Mandela, whose visits to her husband hitherto have been rationed strictly, has declined to take up this offer, arguing that to do so would be wrong when she regards her husband to be just as much a prisoner as he was in the past.

But Mandela is only the best known of a large number of prisoners held in South Africa for their active opposition to apartheid and its denial, based on race, of political and other civil rights. Some of them, Nelson Mandela: His 27th Christmas in custody.

and recently jailed leaders of the ANC-supporting United Democratic Front, have been tried and convicted of crimes such as sabotage, terrorism and treason, concepts which are defined rather elastically by South African courts.

But many others are held under emergency and security laws which permit the indefinite detention without trial of anyone considered a threat to "public safety".

In the past two and a half years, about 30,000 people are estimated to have spent time in jail under these laws.

Conditions for political prisoners in South Africa are very tough, often involving long periods of solitary confinement, but prison regulations forbidding the physical abuse of prisoners are by and large honoured.

The appalling, sometimes fatal, and all too frequent physical assaults on detainees, often involving electric-shock torture and savage beatings, usually take place in the cells of the Security Police before a detainee is sent to prison.



Nelson Mandela: His 27th Christmas in custody.

SAVE £200 TOMORROW

(Anyone would think it's Christmas!)



Collect £200 worth of coupons 9am-6pm Tuesday 27th December

Call in to Homebase tomorrow, Tuesday 27th December, and you can pick up another Christmas present. As you come through the door you'll be handed £200 worth of coupons to spend throughout the store, on houseplants, curtain poles, bathroom suites, ladders... and many other products. The offers are only valid tomorrow, Tuesday 27th December, so don't miss out. With £200 of savings to enjoy, who says Christmas comes only once a year?



LONDON Brentford Catford Croydon Hendon Ilford Kensington Kingston New Southgate Pease Walthamstow Willesden Wimbledon MIDLANDS Coventry Derby Leicester Newcastle-Under-Lyme Northampton Nottingham Oldbury Walsall Walsgrave Worcester NORTH Bradford Hull Leeds Stockport Wakefield York SOUTH & SOUTH EAST Basingstoke Colchester Crayford Hatfield Ipswich Luton Poole Rayleigh Weir Reading Rochester Romford Southampton Waltham Cross Watford WALES & WEST Bath Cardiff Gloucester Swansea Worle.

MONDAY PAGE

Introducing the Hohki Karaoke

When Kazuko Hohki introduces herself to viewers of Channel 4's newest chat show on Wednesday night, she will certainly be the first interviewer on British television to encourage her guests to remove their shoes, drink sake and then sing songs to backing tapes. This is the art of Karaoke, big in Japan and a trend which the station obviously hopes is about to be big here.

Karaoke literally means "empty orchestra", and clubs in Tokyo are apparently filled with businessmen singing Beatles songs with extreme seriousness to their peers. Quite what relevance this has to enlightened conversation on television remains to be seen. At any rate, on the strength of this week's pilot (which has performances by Paul Boateng, MP, singing "As Time Goes By" and Ruby Wax singing "New York New York"), Channel 4 has commissioned a series of seven further shows to be hosted by Miss Hohki.

One problem which manifested itself during filming concerned the difficulty her guests had in understanding what Hohki was saying. She, in turn, could not always grasp the reply to her own questions. These would seem to be serious defects in a chat show hostess. Hohki readily agrees. "Yes I think it's absurd, me doing a chat show. We spend a lot of time asking each other, 'What did you say?' Very British idea, so absurd, so absurd."

This had been prompted by an exchange following her remark that she had been a student of Shelley in Tokyo. Shelley had seemed such an unusual choice for a Japanese undergraduate, it required further comment. "No, no, not 'of Shelley'... officially," explained Hohki, giggling. She gamely believes, however, that the linguistic chasm may be of some benefit. "The guests know I can't speak

Karaoke is the Japanese art of singing songs to backing tapes. Kazuko Hohki, hostess of an extraordinary chat show, hopes it is about to become big in Britain. Fionnuala McHugh reports

English so well or understand it and they feel more secure. I can't bite back like English presenter, so probably more relaxing atmosphere." A sort of Hohki Karaoke?

She has been an Anglophile since childhood exposure to *The Borrowers* books in post-war Japan alerted her to the peculiarities of English creativity. "Since I was 10 I wanted to come to Britain. I came as a tourist and I still think I'm a tourist, I'm so happy. I think I'm addicted." After studying child psychology ("I wanted to study British culture but teacher said there wasn't any") she arrived in England in 1978 at the age of 26 to catch a David Bowie tour and has remained here more or less ever since.

Teaching Japanese at an adult education class provided both an income and further exposure to the eccentric English. "One man brought me a Japanese pornographic cup, very pornographic, from Bournemouth, I think. He said he wanted to take photo of me. I think he was obsessed with oriental women and wanted to take photo hopefully with few clothes on."

She also did some journalism for a Japanese magazine, in the course of which she encountered various performance artists. This encouraged her to set up the Frank Chickens, a cabaret duo, who derived their name from some English words inscribed on a Japanese pencil and whose act is a similarly unlikely mixture of East and West.

Hohki describes her stage performance as economically packaged rook (rook? "Rock, r-o-c-k") culture. "We use

backing tapes, sing songs, change costumes, talk a bit. In Japan I won't be able to do what I'm doing here. I'm too loud-mouthed and I believe in what I'm saying. That's not good for Japanese women, they are not supposed to have their own ideas.

"And Japanese are so closed to comedy, they never had to use humour as protection against foreign invasion. You have loads of foreigners so have to have humour against cultural invasion."

A recent development in the English sense of humour, of course, is the notion propagated by Clive James that the Japanese are an hilarious na-

tion, presumably as part of the foreign invasion of Hohki's theory of comedy.

There are a few uncomfortable moments in the Channel 4 show when some Japanese businessmen perform songs, thereby reducing the invited audience to writhing hysterics.

Hohki, however, is confident that her chat show will catch on. Ironically enough, she thinks that Karaoke is so successful in Japan precisely because they don't have chat shows. "In conversations they tend to end up agreeing with each other all the time, it is such conformist society. Singing is much better."

It remains to be seen whether the same holds true here. She can always seek consolation, if the cult status everyone is hoping for eludes her, in the attitude she has so often observed in her adopted country: "English people, I think, are more into failure."

Kazuko's Karaoke Klub will be shown on Channel 4 on Wednesday at 11.10pm



Kazuko Hohki: "In Japan I won't be able to do what I'm doing here. I'm too loud-mouthed and I believe in what I'm saying"

SALE

Massive Savings. Starts Tuesday 9.00am

Age matters

At an international symposium on population change held recently at the European Institute in Florence, leading demographers, sociologists, economists and historians decided that this was no time to be thinking of early retirement.

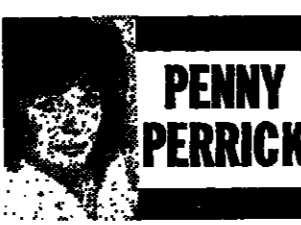
It seems that Europe has to meet the challenge of declining fertility and an ageing population and thinks that the way to do this is to keep people at their desks when, until now, we have insisted that they cke out their peaceful days picking the greenfly off the roses.

I do not know how those among us who are entering the autumn of their days are going to take this news. After all, the now defunct early retirement policy provided a jolly time for little old dyed blonde grannies with adequate pension schemes and a taste for adventure. Everywhere one went, and quite a few places that one didn't, one heard tell of troupes of golden oldies on Saga Holidays whooping it up. Cheap travel has probably benefited the elderly more than any other group, as they have the time as well as the disposable income to globetrot. Companies such as Saga shepherd their clients to such awesome spots that the next time someone attempts the north face of the Eiger, he will probably find a hotel being built there especially for the itchy-footed elderly.

Why should a group of professors in Florence think that anyone would rush to give up the joy of charter flights to do another 20 years straphanging in the rush hour to get to their boring jobs on time?

It was probably all the gadding about and declarations that you are only as old as you feel from all those flighty pensioners that drew them to the attention of those who decide what's what. In Florence, the young-at-hearts goose was cooked when a demographer present insisted: "We must change the rules governing our society and use biological age rather than chronological age as a criterion when we decide who is 'old' and who is not."

This will be welcome news to the older generation of the Perrick family. As I write, my parents, who will not be 70 again, are on holiday in Antibes and are planning a weekend in Paris before my father goes back to work. A few years ago, they bought a retirement home in Brighton, a pretty mews cottage with roses round the door. But as it became clear that hell would



PENNY PERRICK

freeze over before my father retired, they sold it and moved back to mod-cons in London.

My grandmother was of the same youthful persuasion. When she finally stopped colouring her hair bright orange at the age of 84, she complained that her new white-haired dignity made her look old. At 80, she had been very indignant when, having passed all the tests to become a voluntary social worker, she was turned down on grounds of age. All my relations would sympathize with the fashion designer Calvin Klein who, playing a word association game and given the word "young", answered "forever".

I am not like that at all. In fact, I have been planning my retirement since I was in my early twenties. The house in the west of Ireland is ready and waiting. There is a pile of turf by the fire and a drawer full of tapestry kits to keep me nicely occupied. Having had too much travel and excitement in my life already, I wish to spend my old age staying peacefully put.

Instead of looking at the tour operator's brochures, you will find me poring over those catalogues which feature non-slip rubber mats to put in the bath and gadgets to help you put your socks on. The last thing I want is some demographer deciding that I have a biological age of 17½ and forcing me to stay in London and do my bit.

There are grave dangers in keeping the elderly in positions of responsibility since great age so often brings with it even greater pig-headedness. Judges who let rapists and child abusers get off scot-free are usually getting on a bit, as are magistrates who sentence first-time offenders to a stiff jail sentence. Minds as well as muscles become inflexible as the years pass.

It is interesting that the symposium on population change was held at the European University Institute in Florence. The Institute is just outside the city on a hill-top in Fiesole, one of the most beautiful places in the world. I wouldn't be at all surprised if, between working sessions, the delegates mooched around looking for the perfect villa in which to spend their retirement.



AMSTRAD VHS VIDEO RECORDER
LCD Easy Programmable Bar Code Remote Control.
Long Play Facility. Model VCR6100.

LOWEST EVER PRICE! £279.99

COLOUR TELEVISIONS		VIDEOS	
HINARI 14" CT17	SAVE £10 £129.99	TASHIKO LCD REMOTE VV533	SAVE £40 £199.99
HITACHI 14" CP13474	SAVE £20 £149.99	AMSTRAD LCD REMOTE VCR600	SAVE £40 £259.99
HINARI 10" CT16	SAVE £20 £179.99	PANASONIC LCD BAR CODE REMOTE NVG40	SAVE £50 £349.99
JVC 14" REMOTE C140EK	SAVE £20 £179.99	NEC DIGITAL FREE 4 YR GTEE VCR1000	SAVE £50 £349.99
NEC 36cm FST REMOTE FS3620	FREE 7 YR GTEE £229.99	SHARP DIGITAL VCD801	SAVE £150 £399.99
TASHIKO 51cm FST REMOTE 51F871	SAVE £40 £229.99	JVC LONG PLAY HD700	SAVE £40 £459.99
JVC 51cm FST REMOTE C210EK	SAVE £30 £299.99	CAMCORDERS	
FERGUSON 51cm FST TEXT 51J7	SAVE £30 £329.99	AMSTRAD VHS C'VIDEOMATIC VMC100	SAVE £20 £479.99
PHILIPS 51cm FST TEXT 1558	SAVE £50 £349.99	SONY 8mm F330F	SAVE £100 £799.99
AMSTRAD 14" TWIDED COMBINATION TVR2	SAVE £20 £379.99	JVC VHS C' GR45	SAVE £100 £999.99
PHILIPS 59cm FST REMOTE 3271	SAVE £20 £379.99	PHILIPS VHS C' VKR841	SAVE £100 £999.99
SONY 51cm FST TEXT VV221T	FREE 5 YR GTEE £479.99	PHILIPS VHS FULL SIZE VKR851	SAVE £100 £1099.99

COMPUTERS		HI-FI SEPARATES	
AMSTRAD CPC464M	SAVE £50 £149.99	JVC GRAPHIC EQUALISER SEA12	SAVE £10 £59.99
AMSTRAD CPC6128M	SAVE £50 £249.99	YAMAHA TURNTABLE P09	SAVE £20 £69.99
AMSTRAD PORTABLE PPC312D	SAVE £150 £399.99	YAMAHA AMPLIFIER A09	SAVE £15 £84.99
IBM AMIGA A500	SAVE £30 £399.99	TECHNICS CASSETTE DECK RS205	SAVE £10 £89.99
AMSTRAD BUSINESS PACKAGE PC1840PK	SAVE £50 £849.99	YAMAHA CASSETTE DECK K09	SAVE £10 £89.99
MIDIS/CD MIDIS		AR SPEAKERS 112	SAVE £20 £99.99
SANYO MIDI SYSTEM 11	SAVE £30 £139.99	MISSION SPEAKERS 700LE	SAVE £40 £99.99
AMSTRAD CD MIDI CDX400	SAVE £10 £189.99	MARANTZ AMPLIFIER PM25	SAVE £15 £109.99
SANYO MIDI SYSTEM 33	SAVE £20 £229.99	KENWOOD CASSETTE DECK KX57CW	SAVE £15 £114.99
SCHNEIDER CD MIDI 2752	SAVE £30 £239.99	DUAL TURNTABLE 505/3	SAVE £25 £124.99
JVC MIDI W300	SAVE £20 £259.99	KENWOOD CASSETTE DECK KX440HX	SAVE £15 £124.99
KENWOOD MIDI M313C	SAVE £60 £289.99	ARISTON TURNTABLE Q DECK	SAVE £10 £139.99
SANYO CD MIDI SYSTEM 22	SAVE £20 £309.99	B & W SPEAKERS DM5501	SAVE £10 £139.99
PHILIPS CD MIDI FCD485	SAVE £10 £319.99	TECHNICS TUNER STG450	SAVE £10 £139.99
GOODMANS CD MIDI 5300CD	SAVE £20 £329.99	NAD AMPLIFIER 3130	SAVE £10 £149.99
KENWOOD MIDI M51EX	SAVE £100 £329.99	MISSION SPEAKERS 770F	SAVE £160 £239.99
JVC MIDI W400	SAVE £20 £339.99	PORTABLE AUDIO	
HITACHI MIDI S50	SAVE £70 £359.99	CASIO KEYBOARD FT87	SAVE £10 £39.99
JVC MIDI W600EX	SAVE £20 £529.99	ROSS STEREO RADIO CASSETTE FRC2	SAVE £5 £59.99
CD PLAYERS/PORTABLES		AWA COMBINATION STEREO CAW35	SAVE £5 £64.99
TASHIKO CD PLAYER CD780	SAVE £40 £89.99	SONY STEREO RADIO CASSETTE FSD20	SAVE £5 £74.99
TASHIKO CD PLAYER CD783	SAVE £40 £109.99	CASIO KEYBOARD MT140	SAVE £10 £79.99
NEC PORTABLE CD PRCD70	SAVE £40 £129.99	SHARP STEREO RADIO CASSETTE WA354	SAVE £10 £119.99
YAMAHA CD PLAYER CD29	SAVE £10 £159.99	CASIO KEYBOARD MT540	SAVE £40 £129.99
KENWOOD CD PLAYER DP520	SAVE £30 £169.99	YAMAHA KEYBOARD PSS480	SAVE £10 £139.99
DENON CD PLAYER DCD800	SAVE £20 £229.99	CASIO KEYBOARD HT700	SAVE £100 £149.99
NAD CD PLAYER 5240	SAVE £20 £259.99	JVC COMBINATION STEREO PCV77	SAVE £15 £154.99
SONY PORTABLE CD CFDD75	SAVE £20 £329.99	PANASONIC COMBINATION STEREO RWC55	SAVE £20 £179.99

GOLD CARD £2000 INSTANT CREDIT

HURRY! LOWEST EVER PRICES LIMITED STOCK

Best for Choice. Even better for Value.

LASKYS HAVE A NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF STORES. CALL 01-200 0200 FOR DETAILS.

Interest free credit. Typical example: NEC DX1000 (cash price £399.99) 10% deposit £39.99 followed by 6 equal monthly payments of £52.50 APR 0%. Prices correct at time of going to press. All offers subject to availability. Previous prices have been charged at our Brent Cross Store, not necessarily for 28 consecutive days in the last six months. Instant credit available to select age 18 and over subject to check. APR 11.7% variable by direct debit. Written details on request. Laskys are licensed credit brokers. Head office: Huddersfield, Huddersfield, London NW9 9JL.

Bernard Levin

Deliver us from this season of despair

I have never been of the school which insists that the world is going to hell in a handbasket, partly because I am not at all sure that a handbasket is, but much more because it has always seemed to me that the optimistic stance is the only one worthy of any civilized and intelligent person. But when we actually look at the world and its present condition we can hardly deny that there is much plausibility in the claim that we are on an irreversible slide to damnation, and most of us are going there pig-ignorant and in a hell temper.

only if there is a majority for such action among the dwellers involved. In order to avoid the embarrassment of such proposals being defeated, thus implying that the tenants think that it is a lousy idea (which would amount to disbelieving the Government's claims), Ridley has rigged the ballot. If the Noes have it, all those who didn't take part in the vote, though entitled to, are counted as having voted Aye. Neat, what? And done, of course, within the law. Yet not long ago, certainly not much more than a decade, the man who organized such a scam would have been characterized as a crook as surely as if he had made off with the Crown Jewels.

willingness to take in refugees from countries which persecuted them once stood as high as any in the world; at times higher than any. But it is, or should be, a matter for shame that our record on refugees is now among the world's worst. The infamous measure that gave to airlines — airlines — the duty and the right to turn back refugees, the rule that before refugees can be certified genuine they have to produce papers obtainable only from the authority which is persecuting them; the offshore hulks to which would-be refugees were sent, like victims of the slave trade, while their applications, carefully delayed by those charged with processing them, were dealt with, pour encourager les autres; these are stains that cannot easily be wiped away, but go on seeping into the fabric and rotting it.



themselves; by the very doing, they automatically convict themselves of being incapable of understanding what they have done. But that need not inhibit the rest of us from telling them. Samizdat will be filled not by hunted heroes but by some of the richest, greediest and most self-satisfied writers in this country, whose slightest utterings (which are slight indeed) are constantly vied for by editors of newspapers and magazines. And for their comfortable squealings these people have stolen a name which has led those who use it to imprisonment, torture and death. Brave lads! Brave lads!

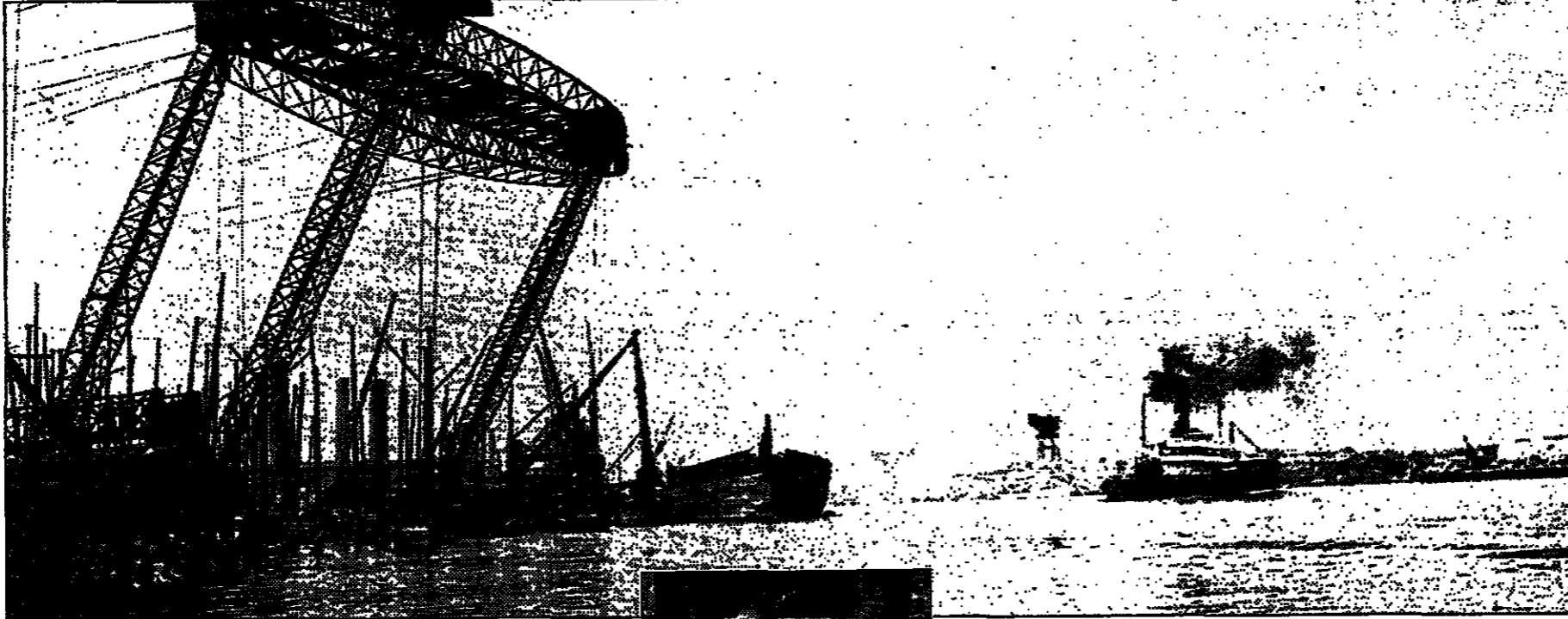
erally, the risk of their lives. One of them told me, quietly and calmly, what the "wet sheet" torture consists of, and he was in a good position to know, because it had happened to him. The victim is stripped naked, and wrapped in a soaking canvas shroud; as the fabric dries, it crushes him tighter and tighter, till not just movement, but breathing itself, approaches the impossible. Others escaped such suffering; they were "only" sacked from their jobs, exiled from their homes, robbed and abused.

giving it their blessing makes it a greater indecency, not a lesser. The Czechoslovaks, in one respect, suffered more than any of the other states of the Soviet empire; even the Hungarians after 1956 were not obliged to do anything except shut up and obey orders, but the Czechoslovaks after the spring of 1968 were compelled to denounce and vilify that brave, glorious, tragic adventure in heroism and truth, and thousands who refused were hounded incessantly for years, while others survived only as broken men.

those who thought it would be terribly, terribly smart to call themselves Charter 88; do they not know that the men and women who founded and worked for the real thing suffered for their faith, and that their suffering was a great deal worse than getting a bad review in the TLS or not being invited to Nigel Lawson's Christmas drinks? These two odiously-named enterprises serve remarkably well to put into perspective the genuine doubts and apprehensions that trouble so many people in Britain today. But the fact that terrible things happen elsewhere is no excuse for the fact that bad things happen here, and we had better not try to hide our shame behind the real evil of others. Corruptio optimi pessima.

Magic of Christmas-on-Tyne

1930s Jarrow encapsulates all the horrors of mass unemployment. The playwright Alan Plater, who was born there, has fonder memories



We are all the sum of our childhood Christmas Days, which I offer as a proposition to be examined in festive spirit, rather than a dogma on which to build a life. Consider: the first of my very few appearances on stage was in a Christmas production at my primary school in Hull. I played the Christmas Pudding and my lines were: Ho ho, I'm such a merry chap! Without me, Christmas would fall flat! So here I am and here's my chance To have a jolly little dance!

greatest ice-cream in the back room, and the shop at the corner of York Street where my sister and I took the accumulator was a key component in the wireless set, vital for the King's speech, Itma, the news or Victor Sylvester. York Street was where my maternal grandparents, Thomas and Mary Plunkett, lived and where we spent every Christmas. Grandma must, I guess, have left school around the age of twelve but was vigorously self-educated. She loved books and pictures. The walls of No 17 were like an art gallery. The Order of Release hung in the living room and The Boyhood of Raleigh in the air raid shelter.

My sister and I had been given musical instruments for Christmas. Being younger, I had been given several: a drum-kit, a mouth organ and a little tin saxophone. My sister Marie, a little older and even then well on the way to becoming a fine piano player, was given a solitary xylophone. I knew nothing about property concepts but sure as hell I knew that xylophone was the most desirable object in the history of the human race. We were in the front room — which proves it was Christmas — and I hid behind the settee with the precious instrument. My sister protested. Voices cried out: "Alan — give Marie the xylophone!" I did, fortunately with more venom than accuracy, so it missed the target. Mum took me out of the room and clarified a few home truths. It was one of the three occasions in her life that she was cross with me. There's a startling symmetry in these matters.



Alan Plater as a child with sister Marie: co-stars of The Great Xylophone Episode

neck speed and, broadly speaking, if you could whistle it, he could whistle it. He also played the violin and a one-string fiddle he had made from an old cigar box. The fiddle now stands on a shelf in my study, nesting between a 1972 Writers' Guild Award and a 1982 Sony Radio Award. The musical sessions usually took place in the afternoon, after Christmas dinner and before our tea. Indeed, the whole day had a structure as precise and elegant as a quadrille or a twelve-bar blues. The children, meaning the two of us, woke in the dark, dark early hours to see what was in our stockings. After breakfast we opened our major presents: the xylophones, battleships, paintboxes and books. The shortage of paper meant that books were drawn from a limited range: The Marvels and Mysteries of Science, Great Navigators and Now We Are Six. I didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings at the time but I thought that Christopher Robin was an ingratiating little worm who would have accepted the part of a Christmas pudding with a cloying smile and a neatly-written letter of thanks. Now is the time to go public about this.

was as great an honour for me to go on the walk as it was for Marie to be allowed to help with the dinner. On a nice day, we would go down to the river. Until the depression, Jarrow was a great ship-building town. At that point the Palmers yard was sold with a clause in the contract legally forbidding any future use for ship-building. In the 1930s the yard was used, spasmodically, for ship-breaking. Men were hired to break up ships they had built a couple of decades earlier. It isn't a pretty way to treat a community, as anyone in Sunderland will tell you, but that's how it was. My Dad had served his time as a shipyard blacksmith in South Shields. After an obligatory spell of unemployment and relief work he found a job on the railways with the old LNER, who also owned some of the Hull docks. I now wear his retirement watch which bears the legend: Presented to H R PLATER by the British Transport Docks Board in recognition of over 35 years' service. Looking at the ships on the Tyne on Christmas Day with a steelworker, a fitter and a blacksmith was always a rich experience. They would analyse a vessel the way the critics analyse a first night, but with more love and less bullshit. They could, it's true, be a little snuffy about ships not built on the Tyne, and quite belligerent about foreigners tampering with the trade. The American Liberty ships were favoured objects of scorn and derision. After all, who in his right mind would place his faith in an American welder? If it was too cold and wet to go to the river, we would go visiting. Front doors were open all day, closed at night and only locked if people were away. Uncle George lived in uptown Jarrow, and was not a relation. He was a workmate of Uncle Harry, an amateur entertainer and an animal fancier. He and his wife had a dog, a cat, a tortoise, chickens on the allotment and a toad called Reuben, who lived in the yard. George would stand with his back to the fire, casually juggling with tennis balls or Indian chubs while discussing General Montgomery or Vera Lynn. He also taught me the art of stumbling over an invisible obstacle on the floor. I have passed the tradition on to my kids. It's

up smoking: "So I hoyed my pipe into the water, and I put a chalk-mark on the side of the ship so I'd know where to look if I wanted to start again. And now the ship's left the river!" He had a lovely way with words, my Uncle Harry. Our family party was interrupted on one occasion by the arrival of an unofficial Aunt and Uncle and their obsequious, worm-like son. He announced them quietly, like an old family retainer: "Mr and Mrs Robinson, accompanied by their little bugger." Then, as my eyelids drooped with the strain of trying to look awake, the conversation drifted and it was time to praise famous men and women, providing they were of Geordie blood: above all, the footballers. The more local the hero, the more fervent the loyalty. Jacky Crawford (1896-1975) was a Jarrow lad who played for Jarrow Town, Hull, Chelsea and England. In 1984 I wrote a stage play called A Foot On The Earth, about the life and times of a Geordie barber. It was inspired by memories of my first haircut in Jarrow. I called my barber here Jacky Crawford. The heroic tradition continues. When Steve Cram, another Jarrow lad, started winning his profusion of gold medals, I asked my Aunt L.L. still adorable and mischievous in her eighties, whether she knew him. I should have guessed her answer, which was: "No, but I know his auntie." It was a privileged childhood in every sense that matters a damn. I learned to respect books, pictures, music and craftsmanship. When I first read Evelyn Waugh, to grab an author at random — a hundred others would support the point equally well — I admired the wit and the skill of his writing, but was baffled by the characters. My mind asked: what are these people for, what do they make — and if they don't make anything, what use are they? I love the word "playwright" because it defines the act of making, rather than writing, and carries echoes of honourable trades like shipwright and wheelwright. By comparison, people who don't make anything, except money, are the latest in the long line of perplexities stretching back to Christmas puddings and beyond. Above all is a sense of wonder at the way the grown-ups protected our innocence in those fearful and ghastly times. They walked out of the Thirties into a world war — which, ironically, created full employment for the first time in over a decade — and if they were afraid, it never showed. Even at the height of the blitz I was never frightened. My opening proposition was: we are all the sum of our Christmas Days. Professionally, it holds good. For better or for worse, every play that I have wrought during the last 25 years has been a song of Jarrow: simultaneously a celebration of the human spirit and an elegy for lost innocence. I have also tried to settle a few scores along the way. But whenever I get too self-righteous and uppity, I look at the signet ring on my finger, the watch on my wrist and the one-string fiddle on the shelf, and I hear a chorus of gentle Geordie voices saying: "Alan — put that xylophone down!" Alan Plater's most recent work includes the screenplay for the BBC Television series, Fortunes of War, A Very British Coup for Channel 4, and The Beiderbeck Connection, the third in his Beiderbeck saga for Yorkshire TV.

Tomorrow: 1789 revisited — the first in a two-part series on the myths and realities of the French Revolution

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL



Not when the Controller is gone, whom I send you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth which proceeds from the Father...

BIRTHS: MANDY On December 15th to Gabrielle (nee Mallet) and George, a daughter, Anna Maria.

DEATHS: BROOKE On December 24th 1988 (Thomas) C.V.D. Suddenly and peacefully. Veritable aged 74, husband of Nabilah, and Father of Sophie Oudale. Funeral arrangements to be announced later.

SERVICES: BROOKE On December 23rd peacefully at his home in Norwich, Stuart John.

MATCHES: Introduction Agency. Just how do you meet the right person? Tel Jennifer Wills 01-5

WANTED: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world. Details, Dept 10720 25 Abingdon Road, London W8. Tel 01-598 8111.

FOR SALE: 1. House for sale. Phnom Penh, Laos. Tel 01-225 9618/7.

FOR SALE: 1. House for sale. Phnom Penh, Laos. Tel 01-225 9618/7.

FOR SALE: 1. House for sale. Phnom Penh, Laos. Tel 01-225 9618/7.

FOR SALE: 1. House for sale. Phnom Penh, Laos. Tel 01-225 9618/7.

FOR SALE: 1. House for sale. Phnom Penh, Laos. Tel 01-225 9618/7.

FOR SALE: 1. House for sale. Phnom Penh, Laos. Tel 01-225 9618/7.

FOR SALE: 1. House for sale. Phnom Penh, Laos. Tel 01-225 9618/7.

FOR SALE: 1. House for sale. Phnom Penh, Laos. Tel 01-225 9618/7.

FOR SALE: 1. House for sale. Phnom Penh, Laos. Tel 01-225 9618/7.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: SPENCER - Baby Grand piano. Brno. Tel: 02083 841619 or 01-366 9360.

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS: HELENA INTERNATIONAL. Established 1974. Tel: 01-409 2913/01 491 0216.

RENTALS: LANDLORDS: We LINDENTLY receive enquiries for our rental services.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: * IT'S ALL AT TRAILFINDERS. More low cost flights via more routes to more destinations.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: * AFRICAN SPECIALISTS. Low cost fares to Africa, Asia, USA.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SPECIAL INTEREST: MARRIAGE: Love or Marriage. All over the world.

WINTER SPORTS: FANTASTIC ALPINE FUN! for NEW YEARS EVE!

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

SKIWIHOZZ 0284 750505. ATOL 2283.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

U.K. HOLIDAYS: DEPART: served from London, Liverpool. Tel: 01-225 9618/7.

FESTIVE SEASON DEADLINES NEW YEAR

Table with 2 columns: Publication Name and Deadline. Includes The Sunday Times, Copy Deadlines, Cancellation/Alteration, The Times, Copy Deadlines, Cancellation/Alteration.

To Place Your Classified Advertisement

Please telephone the appropriate number listed below between 9am and 6pm. Monday to Friday, or between 9.30am and 1.00pm on Saturdays.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Phone Number. Includes Appointments, Public Appointments, Property, Travel, U.K. Holidays, Motors, Personal, Business to Business, Education, Private.

Forthcoming Marriages, Weddings, etc. for the Court and Social Page Cannot be accepted by telephone. Must be in writing and sent to: Court & Social Advertising, Times Newspapers Ltd, 1, Pennington Street, London E1 9DD

Please allow at least 48 hours before publication. Any enquiries for the Court & Social page may be made after 10.30am on 01-833 7347.

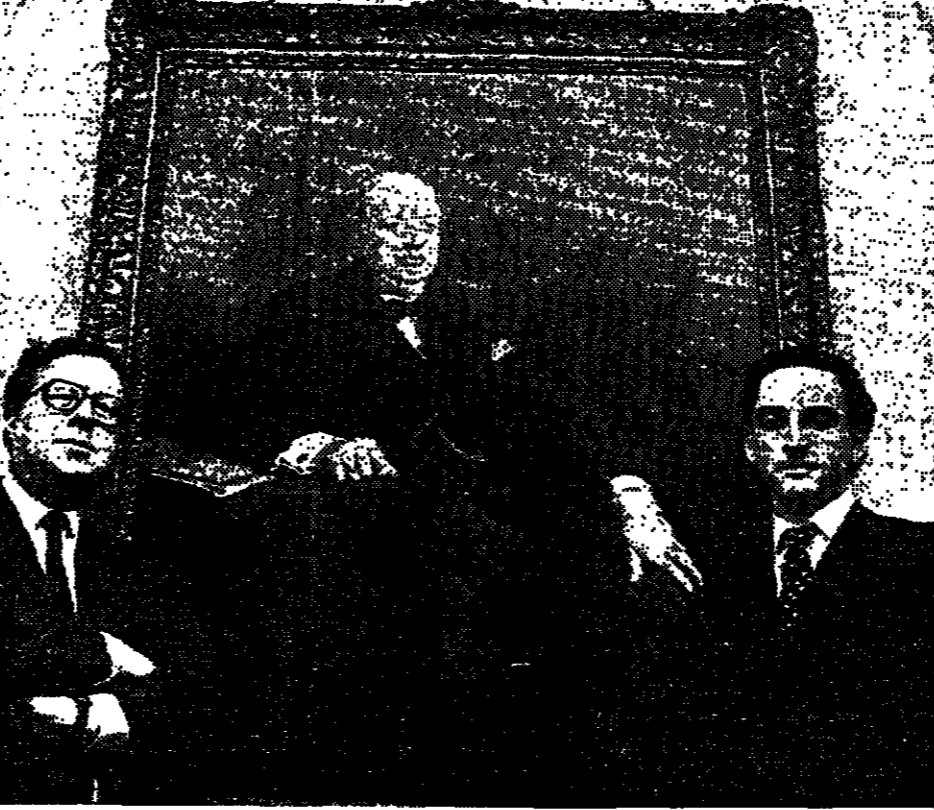
You may use your Access, Amex, Diners or Visa card.

SCIENCE REPORT

Mice given Aids genes in fight to defeat the virus

evolutionary new way of fighting Aids in the laboratory has been found by researchers at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Washington, who used the techniques of genetic engineering to create mice with genes from the Aids virus incorporated into every cell of their bodies. The altered mice develop all symptoms of the disease, including the first time any animal besides man has suffered from full-blown Aids. Malcolm Martin and colleagues at the NIH and the University of Connecticut published their findings in a special issue of the US journal Science.

Commons' first art adviser



By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

The House of Commons has appointed its first art adviser for its art collection. He is Mr Philip Mond, aged 28, a Bond Street dealer, seen here on the right beneath Oswald Butler's portrait of Sir Winston Churchill with Mr Patrick Cormack, MP, chairman of the Commons Works of Art Committee.

Archaeology

Car park hides Norwich's past

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

A major excavation this winter will uncover the outer bailey of Norwich Castle, one of the great royal castles of the Middle Ages. Some six and a half acres in the heart of the city is being excavated before the construction of "Castle Mall", a new shopping centre, and the developers will fund the work at an estimated cost of £600,000.

University News

holding a ceremony for conferring honorary degrees at Saint David's University College, Lampeter on July 15 1989. The honorees to be honoured are: MA: Mr Ifor Edwards, in recognition of his contributions to the field of local history.

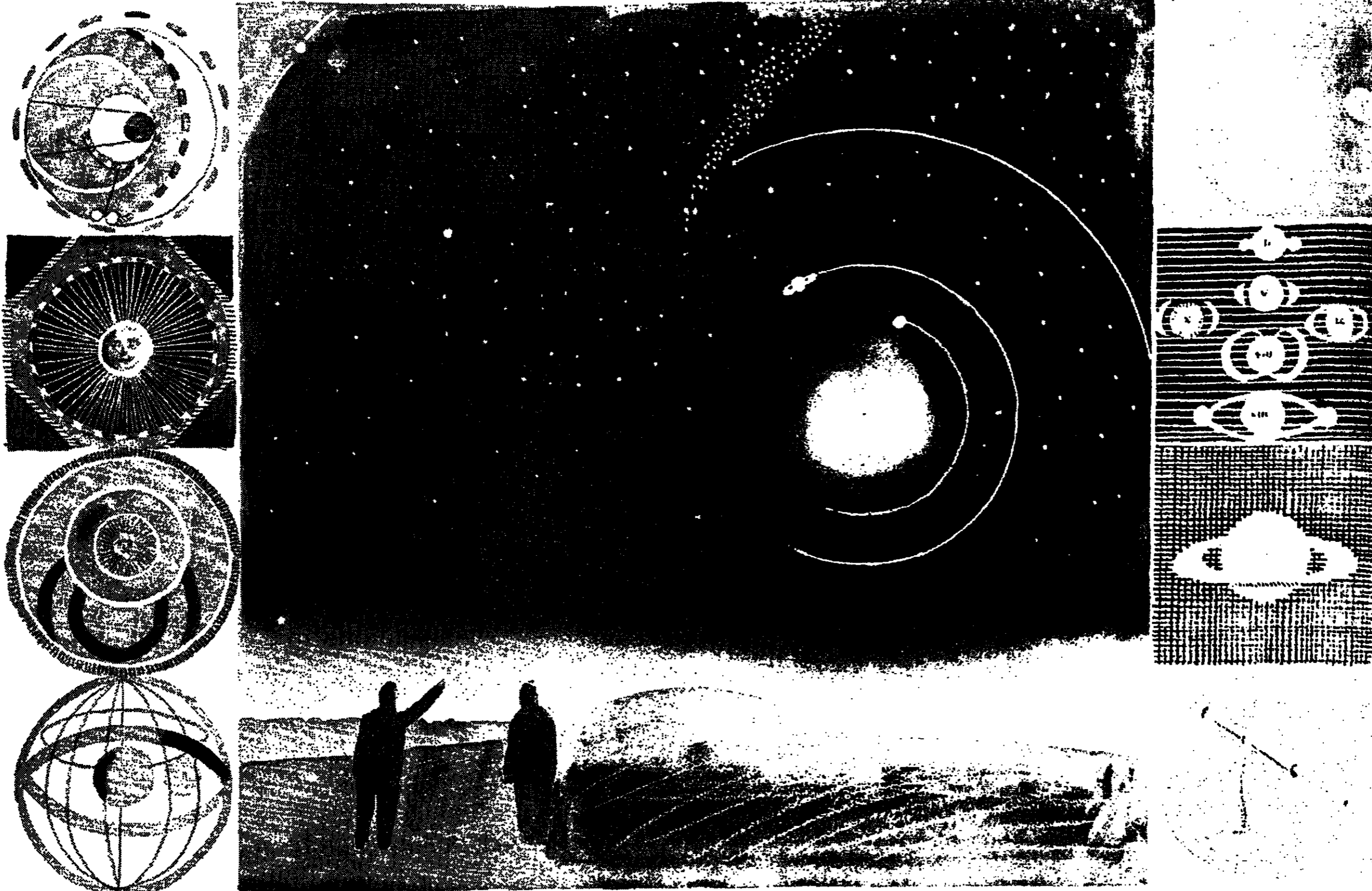
Unseen peril in busy streets

There is new evidence that invisible pollution from vehicle exhausts is becoming a serious problem in London's traffic-choked streets. Carbon monoxide levels exceeded World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines in a number of episodes covering 11 days between last October 20 and November 25.

Goldfinches stay north

Many goldfinches and linnets leave Britain for the south of France and Spain during the winter, but in this mild December there are still plenty to be seen. Male goldfinches often feed in flocks on the large, dry seed-heads of teasel; the females have shorter beaks, which restricts them to burdock and thistle.

CREATURES OF NIGHT



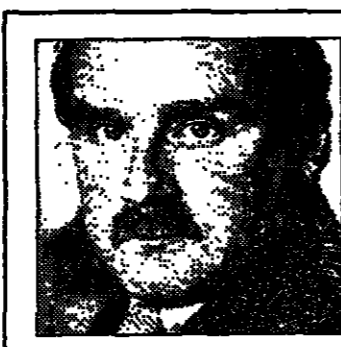
Let me be drawn up into the immensity. Into the darkness, where nothing can be known. Once there were creatures of light leaping across the firmament, and the pattern of their movement filled the heavens. But the creatures soon fled and in their place appeared great spheres of crystal which turned within each other, their song vibrating through all the strings of the world. These harmonies were too lovely to last. A clock was ticking in the pale hands of God, and already it was too late. Yes. The wheels of the mechanism began to turn. What was that painting by Joseph Wright of Derby? I saw it once. Was it called "The Experiment"? I remember how the light, glancing through a bell-jar, swerved upwards and covered the whole sky. But this too went out: the candle flame was blown away by the wind from vast furnaces, when the electrical powers swept across the firmament.

But there were always fields, fields of even time beyond the fires. Empty space reaching into the everlasting. At least I thought that as a child. Then there came a tremor of uncertainty. There was no time left. No space to float in. And everything began moving

away. Nothing but waves now, their furrows tracking the path of objects which do not exist. Here is a star called Charmed. And after this, after this dream has passed, what then? What shape will the darkness take then? I... Damian Fall turned to his companion. "Of course, you know what we will be observing?"

"Aldebaran."

"Yes. There." Damian pointed towards the horizon, and both men looked out at the great star. "One hundred and twenty times brighter than the sun," he said. And he put his hand above his eyes, as if shielding them from the heat. Burning star. Seeming to be red, but the colours shifting like an hallucination. In this same area of the sky they saw small cones of light, called Hyades and believed to be a greater distance from the earth - cool red stars glowing within the clouds of gas which swirled about them. And close to them - the lights known as the Pleiades, involved in a blue nebula which seemed to stick against each star, the strands and filaments of its blue light smeared across the endless darkness. Behind these clusters they could see



FIRST LIGHT by Peter Ackroyd
The latest novel from the author of *Hawksmoor* and *Chatterton* will be published in the spring - and also throughout this week in *The Times*, in six extracts

the vast Crab Nebula, so far from the earth that from this distance it was no more than a mist or a cloud, a haziness in the eye like the after-image of an explosion. And yet Damian could see further. He looked up and could see Galaxies. Nebulae. Wandering planets. Rotating discs. Glowing interstellar debris. Spirals. Strands of brightness that contained millions of suns. Darkness like thick brushstrokes across a painted surface. Pale moons. Pulses of light. All these coming from the past, ghost images wreathed in mist which confounded Damian. I am on a storm-tossed boat out at sea, the dark waves around me. This was

what the earliest men saw in the skies - an unfathomable sea upon which they were drifting. Now we, too, talk of a universe filled with waves. We have returned to the first myth. And what if the stars are really torches, held up to light me on my way? I see what they saw in the beginning, even before the creatures of light appeared across the heavens. I can see the first human sky.

"Yes," he said. "Aldebaran. Once this region was thought to form the outline of a face in the constellation of Taurus." He looked at the face of his companion, but he could see only a silhouette in the darkness. "But the Pleiades contains 300 stars in no real pattern. Just burning, being destroyed, rushing outward." The last vestiges of cloud had now drifted away and the entire night sky had reappeared, so bright and so clear that Damian Fall put out his hand to it; then he turned his wrist, as if somehow he could turn the sky on a great wheel. And for a moment, as he moved his head, it did seem that the stars moved with him. "Why is it," he went on, "that we think of a circular motion as the most perfect? Is it because it has no beginning and no end?"

"Now that's a deep question."

"Like circles in stone. You know there was an ancient historian who wrote about the stone circles around us here? Even on the moor. He describes how a god was supposed to return to the island of Britain every 19 years, the period in which the stars completed their cycle. During his visitation the god sang and danced continuously by night - on just such a night as this - from the spring equinox to the rising of the Pleiades. And of course the rising of Aldebaran with them." His young companion shifted his feet, and said nothing.

"A hundred thousand million galaxies. A hundred thousand million stars in each one."

"Serious numbers."

"I wish we could see them all, but then probably the light would blind us. Still, we do our best." He turned around and looked back at the observatory, its white dome gleaming in the starlight. "What I meant to say," he went on, more cheerfully now, "is welcome to the project. Welcome to Holblack Moor."

"Tea up." The two men were roused from the darkness, and stepped apart, as a young woman called over to them. "Almost dawn," she said. "Time for a nice cup of tea."

"Coming, Brenda. We're coming."

This star is Strange. And this is Charmed. Everything is rushing

away. Damian drank his tea and, under the light issuing from the fire but how, to both sides of it, the landscape remained as it had always been - the fields here of varying colours, as if clouds were passing overhead and turning the vivid green into darker shades of emerald or of jade. Here also there were patches of juniper scrub and, dotted among them, dark evergreen bushes which from this distance looked almost black against the varying shades of the land. There was a ridge above the valley at this point, with a decaying plantation of beeches clustered upon it; mixed among the beeches there stood a clump of young ashes, their smooth grey bark like strips of light against the dark wood of the older trees. And there, further down, on the edge of the burnt forest, was the ancient tumulus itself.

The grass or turf which covered it was of a darker green than any in the fields beside it and although at first sight it might seem part of the natural landscape - its shape was like that of a hillock or dune - on further inspection it was clearly not in proportion with the rest of Pilgrin Valley. It was 12 feet at its highest point and some 80 or 90 feet in length, seeming to emerge from the side of the valley itself and then rising upwards before eventually tapering to a point. This long narrow mound might have marked the sudden emergence of some creature now extinct or have represented some ancient and forgotten disease in the landscape - a large growth which had for centuries been successfully concealed beneath the covering of ash trees, but which had now at last been revealed within the blackened circles of a forest fire.

So, in Pilgrin Valley, close to the observatory on Holblack Moor, a tumulus has been found. But for Mark Clare, the principal archaeologist, it is the beginning of a difficult and painful journey.

Mark returned to his study after dinner, and sat among his books. Around him there were piles of his own papers, graphs, computer print-outs, and drawings as well as old copies of archaeological journals and volumes of archaeological research. On his shelves, too, were antiquarian studies of the area itself. For Dorset was his obsession. He believed that this place had its own sound - he had always heard a peculiarly soft quality in the bird song - and its own smells. And when he saw the sheep and cattle peacefully grazing in the fields he could feel the pressure of its beneficence, its curves and folds cradling the life which seemed to have issued from it. It possessed an almost human presence, as if the generations of those who had dwelt upon its surface had left some faint echo - as difficult to recognize as the song of a particular bird, but a subdued persistent note beneath all other sounds. Or was it a colour rather than a note - that deep green, as rich as blood, as soft as breath, forever being renewed? When he lay upon the grass of Dorset it was as if he were being borne up by the hands of all those who had come

before him. They were the ground on which he rested. Yes, this was a haunted place. It contained mysteries.

He took down a volume of *Dorset Antiquary*. Even its title evoked for him the open fields, the hollows and recesses of green, the wooded horizons, the curving boundaries of the chalk, the soft earth. And once again he felt at peace. He did not want to read it, he just wanted to hold it in his hands and look at it, turning its musty and slightly damp pages and gazing once again at the engravings of the old landscape with its ancient mounds and long abandoned pathways. He stopped at one page which contained a sketch of a tumulus somewhere in the region. It had been drawn, he was sure, by some 18th-century antiquary, and it dominated the rolling landscape like a leviathan. And yet in another sense it seemed to Mark to be in true perspective, since the landscape itself had been changed beyond recognition - with his finger he traced the outline of wild trees in the engraving, their branches linked in so boldly that they seemed to be leaning in fright away from the mound, away from the ravines beneath them, away from the distant crags which contained no reassurance of any human community. All these features might have been emanations from the tumulus itself and, above them, the antiquary had depicted a livid and turbulent sky. But perhaps this was how the landscape then was. Or perhaps, which had for centuries been successfully concealed beneath the covering of ash trees, but which had now at last been revealed within the blackened circles of a forest fire.

He looked up at the sky. The rainstorm had passed and it had become a clear, calm night - on just such a night Gabriel Oak was tending his sheep on Norcombe Hill in Thomas Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd*, and Hardy describes how "the sovereign brilliance of Sirius pierced the eye with a steady glitter, the star called Capella was yellow, Aldebaran and Betelgeuse shone with a fiery red" for this was a night when "the twinkling of all the stars seemed to be but throbs of one body, timed by a common pulse". But the stars are not pulsating in quite that manner. They are rushing away from an unknown point of origin, and this planet is rushing away with them, driven on by the force of some event that created time in the same unimaginable moment as it created space.

Mark Clare was not thinking of this. He looked up at the heavens and for him the constellations were transformed into the faces of Evangeline Tupper and Kathleen, his wife. This was the story written across the sky. And then these faces faded, and he began to see the outline of an unknown child's face. "A child," he said. "Our own child."

Kathleen could not make out his words but she had heard the strange tone in his voice; she knocked softly and entered the room, seeing only his silhouette against the sky. Then she heard the collection of antique clocks chiming the hour in the shop beneath their flat - all of them, great and small, sounding together. "It's so dark in here, Mark," she said. "Put on the light. You should put on the light."

The Scotch House

Sale Starts Tomorrow
OPEN 9AM UNTIL 7PM

FOR WOMEN	Reduced From	Sale Price
Cashmere Pullovers	£110.00	£79.95
Lambwool Pullovers	£29.00	£19.95
Lambwool Gold Button Cardigans	£39.00	£24.95
Pure Wool Tartan Kilts	£75.00	£39.95
Cashmere Scarves	£29.50	£13.50

FOR MEN	Reduced From	Sale Price
Cashmere Pullovers	£155.00	£99.95
Lambwool Pullovers	£27.00	£19.95
Sports Knitwear	£39.50	£24.95
Shetland Cable Pullovers	£39.00	£16.50
Wool Scarves	£9.50	£6.25

Generous reductions throughout all our departments, including childrenswear. Personal shoppers only. All major credit cards accepted.

LONDON:
2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7PB. Tel: 01-581 2151
84/86 Regent Street, London W1R 5PF. Tel: 01-734 0203
101 Regent Street, London W1R 7WA. Tel: 01-734 4816

WINDSOR:
22 Peasod Street, Windsor SL4 1DU. Tel: (0753) 968114

EDINBURGH:
39/41 Prince Street, Edinburgh EH2 2BY. Tel: 031-556 1252

away. Damian drank his tea and, under the light issuing from the fire but how, to both sides of it, the landscape remained as it had always been - the fields here of varying colours, as if clouds were passing overhead and turning the vivid green into darker shades of emerald or of jade. Here also there were patches of juniper scrub and, dotted among them, dark evergreen bushes which from this distance looked almost black against the varying shades of the land. There was a ridge above the valley at this point, with a decaying plantation of beeches clustered upon it; mixed among the beeches there stood a clump of young ashes, their smooth grey bark like strips of light against the dark wood of the older trees. And there, further down, on the edge of the burnt forest, was the ancient tumulus itself.

The grass or turf which covered it was of a darker green than any in the fields beside it and although at first sight it might seem part of the natural landscape - its shape was like that of a hillock or dune - on further inspection it was clearly not in proportion with the rest of Pilgrin Valley. It was 12 feet at its highest point and some 80 or 90 feet in length, seeming to emerge from the side of the valley itself and then rising upwards before eventually tapering to a point. This long narrow mound might have marked the sudden emergence of some creature now extinct or have represented some ancient and forgotten disease in the landscape - a large growth which had for centuries been successfully concealed beneath the covering of ash trees, but which had now at last been revealed within the blackened circles of a forest fire.

So, in Pilgrin Valley, close to the observatory on Holblack Moor, a tumulus has been found. But for Mark Clare, the principal archaeologist, it is the beginning of a difficult and painful journey.

Mark returned to his study after dinner, and sat among his books. Around him there were piles of his own papers, graphs, computer print-outs, and drawings as well as old copies of archaeological journals and volumes of archaeological research. On his shelves, too, were antiquarian studies of the area itself. For Dorset was his obsession. He believed that this place had its own sound - he had always heard a peculiarly soft quality in the bird song - and its own smells. And when he saw the sheep and cattle peacefully grazing in the fields he could feel the pressure of its beneficence, its curves and folds cradling the life which seemed to have issued from it. It possessed an almost human presence, as if the generations of those who had dwelt upon its surface had left some faint echo - as difficult to recognize as the song of a particular bird, but a subdued persistent note beneath all other sounds. Or was it a colour rather than a note - that deep green, as rich as blood, as soft as breath, forever being renewed? When he lay upon the grass of Dorset it was as if he were being borne up by the hands of all those who had come

before him. They were the ground on which he rested. Yes, this was a haunted place. It contained mysteries.

He took down a volume of *Dorset Antiquary*. Even its title evoked for him the open fields, the hollows and recesses of green, the wooded horizons, the curving boundaries of the chalk, the soft earth. And once again he felt at peace. He did not want to read it, he just wanted to hold it in his hands and look at it, turning its musty and slightly damp pages and gazing once again at the engravings of the old landscape with its ancient mounds and long abandoned pathways. He stopped at one page which contained a sketch of a tumulus somewhere in the region. It had been drawn, he was sure, by some 18th-century antiquary, and it dominated the rolling landscape like a leviathan. And yet in another sense it seemed to Mark to be in true perspective, since the landscape itself had been changed beyond recognition - with his finger he traced the outline of wild trees in the engraving, their branches linked in so boldly that they seemed to be leaning in fright away from the mound, away from the ravines beneath them, away from the distant crags which contained no reassurance of any human community. All these features might have been emanations from the tumulus itself and, above them, the antiquary had depicted a livid and turbulent sky. But perhaps this was how the landscape then was. Or perhaps, which had for centuries been successfully concealed beneath the covering of ash trees, but which had now at last been revealed within the blackened circles of a forest fire.

So, in Pilgrin Valley, close to the observatory on Holblack Moor, a tumulus has been found. But for Mark Clare, the principal archaeologist, it is the beginning of a difficult and painful journey.

Mark returned to his study after dinner, and sat among his books. Around him there were piles of his own papers, graphs, computer print-outs, and drawings as well as old copies of archaeological journals and volumes of archaeological research. On his shelves, too, were antiquarian studies of the area itself. For Dorset was his obsession. He believed that this place had its own sound - he had always heard a peculiarly soft quality in the bird song - and its own smells. And when he saw the sheep and cattle peacefully grazing in the fields he could feel the pressure of its beneficence, its curves and folds cradling the life which seemed to have issued from it. It possessed an almost human presence, as if the generations of those who had dwelt upon its surface had left some faint echo - as difficult to recognize as the song of a particular bird, but a subdued persistent note beneath all other sounds. Or was it a colour rather than a note - that deep green, as rich as blood, as soft as breath, forever being renewed? When he lay upon the grass of Dorset it was as if he were being borne up by the hands of all those who had come

before him. They were the ground on which he rested. Yes, this was a haunted place. It contained mysteries.

He took down a volume of *Dorset Antiquary*. Even its title evoked for him the open fields, the hollows and recesses of green, the wooded horizons, the curving boundaries of the chalk, the soft earth. And once again he felt at peace. He did not want to read it, he just wanted to hold it in his hands and look at it, turning its musty and slightly damp pages and gazing once again at the engravings of the old landscape with its ancient mounds and long abandoned pathways. He stopped at one page which contained a sketch of a tumulus somewhere in the region. It had been drawn, he was sure, by some 18th-century antiquary, and it dominated the rolling landscape like a leviathan. And yet in another sense it seemed to Mark to be in true perspective, since the landscape itself had been changed beyond recognition - with his finger he traced the outline of wild trees in the engraving, their branches linked in so boldly that they seemed to be leaning in fright away from the mound, away from the ravines beneath them, away from the distant crags which contained no reassurance of any human community. All these features might have been emanations from the tumulus itself and, above them, the antiquary had depicted a livid and turbulent sky. But perhaps this was how the landscape then was. Or perhaps, which had for centuries been successfully concealed beneath the covering of ash trees, but which had now at last been revealed within the blackened circles of a forest fire.

So, in Pilgrin Valley, close to the observatory on Holblack Moor, a tumulus has been found. But for Mark Clare, the principal archaeologist, it is the beginning of a difficult and painful journey.

Mark returned to his study after dinner, and sat among his books. Around him there were piles of his own papers, graphs, computer print-outs, and drawings as well as old copies of archaeological journals and volumes of archaeological research. On his shelves, too, were antiquarian studies of the area itself. For Dorset was his obsession. He believed that this place had its own sound - he had always heard a peculiarly soft quality in the bird song - and its own smells. And when he saw the sheep and cattle peacefully grazing in the fields he could feel the pressure of its beneficence, its curves and folds cradling the life which seemed to have issued from it. It possessed an almost human presence, as if the generations of those who had dwelt upon its surface had left some faint echo - as difficult to recognize as the song of a particular bird, but a subdued persistent note beneath all other sounds. Or was it a colour rather than a note - that deep green, as rich as blood, as soft as breath, forever being renewed? When he lay upon the grass of Dorset it was as if he were being borne up by the hands of all those who had come

TOMORROW: EXPLORATIONS BEGIN

CRICKET

West Indies struggle as Australia hit a rich seam of success

Australia had fair reason to be satisfied at the end of the first day's play in the third Test match here against West Indies, if not quite as much as their supporters liked to think. When West Indies were 68 for no wicket, not a quarter of an hour before lunch, Australia would no doubt have settled for a closing score of 245 for eight; but they had a helpful pitch to bowl on.

Scoreboard

Table with columns for Team, Score, and Wicket. Includes sub-sections for West Indies and Australia.

Although the authorities here have addressed themselves to the over-rate, the formula they have come up with for this series really is scatty. On Saturday, for example, play ended at six o'clock on a lovely evening, and with enough light left for another 90 minutes' cricket. Of the 90 overs that should have been bowled by then, only 83 had been.

Counties all make modest increases in their charges

Every county club will increase its members' subscriptions next year, the first time this has happened. None of the 1989 rises seem excessive, remembering inflation, and several will continue to discount the Test and County Cricket Board's marketing permits.

THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP

Table showing subscription costs for various counties: Derbyshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire.

Comparisons with football cannot be taken too far but Northamptonshire, sharing the same ground, cast slightly envious eyes at third division Northampton Town, who charge £13 for a season ticket.

MOTOR RALLYING: MOTORCYLIST IS SERIOUSLY INJURED ONLY HOURS AFTER LEAVING PARIS



Arc lights: competitors enjoy a rare moment of peace as they drive through the dawn along the Champs Elysees at the start of the rally yesterday

Early casualty on the road to Dakar

A French motorcyclist competing in the 1988/89 Paris-Dakar Rally is in hospital in Toulouse, south-west France, suffering from severe head injuries after losing control of his 1,500cc Honda machine early hours after the notoriously hazardous event began yesterday.

Esso extra boosts championship

Increased coverage of the British Touring Car championship on television last season has already reaped its reward (Andrew Longmore writes).

Football: Report paints a gloomy picture for smaller clubs

The Football League has received more ammunition in its rearguard attempt to dissuade the Government from making it compulsory for all supporters to carry identity cards from next season.

An agent making no secret

When Bobby Gould recently suggested that it is agents, rather than wives, who represent the scourge of modern football, the Wimbledon manager had one person in mind.

League provided with more evidence on identity cards

The Football League has received more ammunition in its rearguard attempt to dissuade the Government from making it compulsory for all supporters to carry identity cards from next season.

Davenport hoping to break duck

Peter Davenport will have an extra reason for wanting to score against Everton on his native Merseyside this afternoon. The former Manchester United striker has not scored in the nine matches since he joined Middlesbrough from Old Trafford although he has done more than enough in those games to earn a plaudits from Bruce Rioch, the Middlesbrough manager.

Gibson nets a record for Bangor

Bangor established a club record at the weekend by stretching their unbeaten run to nine games when sharing the points in a 1-1 draw with Linfield at the weekend.

Aid for Armenia

Berne (AFP) - UEFA, European football's governing body, are to give 400,000 Swiss francs (£150,000) to the Armenian football authorities to help victims of the earthquake there.

Crossword clue

One of the clues to The Times/Whitbread White Label Bitter sports jumbo crossword on page 37 of Saturday's paper was inadvertently omitted from some editions. The clue to 43 down should have read: A lasting feature of bowls (3).

Advertisement for Times Classified, featuring logos for various publications and contact information for the advertising department.

FOR THE RECORD - A section containing sports results for Football, Basketball, Hockey, Lacrosse, and Rugby Union.

NOTICE TO READERS - Advertisement for The Box Number Department, providing contact details for subscription and advertising enquiries.

ency
bill awa
prepared
Pennin

- FOUR-PAGE PULL-OUT GUIDE TO THE HOLIDAY'S TV AND RADIO 29
- PETER ACKROYD ON FIRST LIGHT 22
- TRAVEL: JAN MORRIS IN SWEDEN 26

- BOXING DAY RACING 34,35
- BENNY GREEN'S BOOK 36
- SPORTS PRIZE CROSSWORD 37
- SPORTS QUOTES OF THE YEAR 38

Quiz of the year 1988

Who said it? Who got it wrong? Who denied it?
George Hill asks 50 questions to discover whether the past year has really been one to remember

WHO SAID WHAT

- Who said: "I'm going to do it for my mum"?
(a) Michael Dukakis?
(b) The Duke of York?
(c) Ben Johnson?
(d) Mark Thatcher?
- Who said: "I wish I had been Bob Geldof"?
(a) Paul McCartney?
(b) Placido Domingo?
(c) The Prince of Wales?
(d) Robert Maxwell?
- Who said: "I must look sombre. I don't want to be photographed grinning"?
(a) Mike Gating after late-night indiscretions in a hotel?
(b) Peter Wright on hearing that the Government had spent £500,000 failing to suppress *Spycatcher*?
(c) David Owen on hearing of a collapse of Liberal-SDP negotiations?
(d) Gerry Adams on hearing that Sinn Fein members were to be banned from the air?
- Who said of whom: "He's not been able to take responsibility for anything, and I think that's really his problem"?
(a) Michael Dukakis of George Bush?
(b) Nigel Lawson of Sir Alan Walters?
(c) Norman Tebbit of Prince Charles?
(d) Glenys Kinnock of Neil Kinnock?
- Who said: "The belief in our fatherland is at stake. You can trust me"?
(a) Mikhail Gorbachev?
(b) Kurt Waldheim?
(c) General Pinochet?
(d) Gary Hart?
- Who said: "I would walk miles for a bacon sandwich"?
(a) Sir Clement Freud?
(b) Edwin Currie?
(c) Roy Jenkins?
(d) Rabbi Julia Neuberger?
(e) The Princess of Wales?
- Who said: "There have to be some opportunities for the nouveau riches"?
(a) Baron Thyssen?
(b) Peter Clowes?
(c) Nicholas Ridley?
(d) The Dean of Hereford?
- Who said, of a shooting incident in a London street: "It was just a little problem"?
(a) The Metropolitan Police Commissioner?
(b) The Cuban ambassador?
(c) Sylvester Stallone?
(d) The Queen?
- Who said: "Whenever I drive in Southern England today the place is being torn up and torn apart"?
(a) The Prince of Wales?
(b) Sir Philip Powell?
(c) Michael Heseltine?
(d) Nicholas Ridley?

CORRIDORS OF POWER

- On what occasion did Neil Kinnock lead a choral rendering of *Jerusalem* and propose: "Let's form an escape committee"?
(a) In Buckingham Palace, when summoned for a meeting of privy counsellors?
(b) In Transport House, when summoned for a dressing-down from Ron Todd?
(c) When held at gunpoint by security forces in Zimbabwe?
(d) At the Llangollen Eisteddfod?

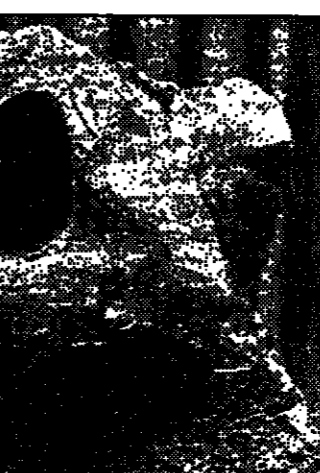
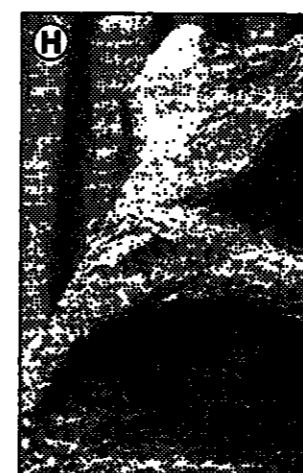
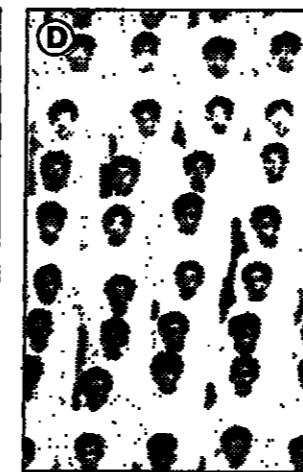
- What was Mrs Thatcher doing with a sack in St James's Park in March?
(a) Wondering when to give it to Nigel Lawson?
(b) Covering up an official secret?
(c) Clearing litter that had been specially scattered for the occasion?
(d) Collecting horse manure for the Dulwich garden, after the Horse Guards had passed by?
- Which council considered buying for £5 million property it sold for 15p?
(a) Brent?
(b) Lambeth?
(c) Liverpool?
(d) Westminster?
- Why was the Lord Chancellor suspended from communion by his Church?
(a) For attempting to raise the Devil by necromantic rites?
(b) For attending the funeral of a Roman Catholic colleague?
(c) For appointing a Roman Catholic judge?
(d) For threatening to abolish the barristers' closed shop?
- Who attacked "sharp-suited, cordless-telephone socialism"?
(a) Arthur Scargill?
(b) Ron Todd?
(c) Michael Foot?
(d) Derek Hatton?
- Who claimed that the Queen sent him birthday greetings when she hadn't?
(a) Robert Maxwell?
(b) Lord St John of Fawley?
(c) President Ceausescu?
(d) Ex-president Idi Amin?
- Who said of whom: "I don't think she'll ever be described as a popular politician"?
(a) Nancy Reagan of Mrs Thatcher?
(b) Lord Whitelaw of Mrs Thatcher?
(c) Mrs Thatcher of Mrs Currie?
(d) General Zia of Benazir Bhutto?
- Who found himself landing in South Africa by mistake?
(a) Neil Kinnock?
(b) The Pope?
(c) Nelson Mandela?
(d) Graham Gooch?
- Which minister said: "It was a cock-up"?
(a) Home Office Minister Douglas Hogg, over pub opening hours?
(b) Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley, over Green Belt policy?
(c) Health Secretary Kenneth Clarke, over nurses' pay regrading?
(d) Chancellor Nigel Lawson, over his interview on means testing and pensions?
- Who said: "This is not so much a party conference as a hothouse in a goldfish bowl"?
(a) Sir Robin Day?
(b) David Coleman?
(c) Neil Kinnock?
(d) Robert MacLennan?
- Who said: "The Soviet Union is not in the business of making unilateral gestures"?
(a) George Shultz?
(b) Michael Heseltine?
(c) Marshal Akhromyev, Soviet Chief of Staff?
(d) Monsignor Bruce Kent?

SPORTING LIFE

- How many of the following led England on the cricket field this year?
(a) Mike Gatting?
(b) John Embury?
(c) Chris Cowdrey?
(d) Graham Gooch?
(e) Derek Pringle?
- Against which of the following has England won a soccer international this year?
(a) Saudi Arabia?
(b) Colombia?
(c) Sweden?
(d) Holland?
- Who said: "If you've got to lose, you might as well lose to the better player on the final day, and pass the torch"?
(a) Daley Thompson?
(b) Anatoly Karpov?
(c) Marina Navratilova?
(d) Boris Becker?
- Who spent £3.5 million preparing for a race, and then wasn't invited to take part?
(a) Peter de Savary?
(b) Sebastian Coe?
(c) Richard Branson?
(d) Sheikh Mohammed?
- Who said: "Just being part of the Olympics was fantastic. Other countries would never have allowed me to take part"?
(a) Weightlifter Naim Suljmanoglu?
(b) Zola Budd?
(c) Eddie Edwards?
(d) Captain Mark Phillips?
- Of whom was it said: "She's beautiful, but she walks like Robert Mitchum"?
(a) Florence Griffith Joyner?
(b) Gabriela Sabatini?
(c) Fatima Whitbread?
(d) Monique Beignon?
- Who said: "This country just doesn't breed winners"?
(a) Sandy Lyle?
(b) Peter May?
(c) Annabel Croft?
(d) Colin Moynihan?
- What event did *L'Observateur Romano*, the official Vatican newspaper, call "a vulgar display of power and wealth"?
(a) The Olympic Games?
(b) The Paris-Dakar Rally?
(c) Henley Royal Regatta?
(d) The America's Cup?

FUR, FEATHER AND FIN

- Which of the following political animals was still alive at the end of the year?
(a) Wilberforce, the Downing Street cat?
(b) Ted, David Blunkett's guide-dog?
(c) Dizze, Michael Foot's terrier?
(d) Ron Todd's Blackpool Conference dinosaurs?
- While digging channels through the ice to rescue trapped whales in the Arctic, how did Eskimo workers keep up their strength?
(a) With a liquor brewed from fermented seaweed?
(b) With nips of whiskey contributed by a publicity-seeking distillery?
(c) By singing shanties in Aleut?
(d) By chewing dried walrusmeat?



PICTURE QUESTIONS

- This year's most unusual picture. Is it:
(a) A stunt which raised £2,500 for the Children in Need appeal?
(b) A Russian film?
(c) A Greenpeace protest?
(d) All in a day's work for Jeremy Beadle?
- What is the Prince of Wales preparing to do?
(a) Visit a Securitor warehouse?
(b) Give his father a good talking to?
(c) Race a veteran car?
(d) Address the RIBA?
- At what event was this man pictured?
(a) Superbowl?
(b) The Olympic Games?
(c) An Elton John concert?
(d) The Republican Party Convention in New Orleans?
- What are all these people doing?
(a) Being married by the Moonies?
(b) Opening the Olympic Games in Seoul?
(c) Making an advertisement for Pepsi Cola in Moscow?
(d) Taking part in a choral festival in Peking?
- Has Home Secretary Douglas Hurd just:
(a) Inspected police cells in Northern Ireland?
(b) Opened a prison in Yorkshire?
(c) Voted against the Government?
(d) Visited the strong room at the Royal Mint?
- Who has just sold these boots?
(a) Dr Marten?
(b) Christie's?
(c) Elton John?
(d) Gerry Cottle's Circus?
- What is happening here?
(a) An Olympic event?
(b) The filming of *Who Dares Wins II*, to be released early next year?
(c) The Israeli security service in training?
(d) Merchant bankers on an adventure course?
- This went on display this year. What is it?
(a) A Henry Moore put on show at the Tate?
(b) A dinosaur vertebrae put on show at the Natural History Museum?
(c) A fossil discovered by engineers working on the Channel tunnel?
(d) A meteorite which crashed in the Soviet Union?

LIBERTY

The compilers of the first five correct entries drawn will each receive a Liberty's hamper, which will include fruit cake, Earl Grey tea and smoked salmon, delivered to the winners' homes.

To enter the competition, write down the number of each question followed by the letter beside the answer which you think is correct (e.g. 1,a,2,d; and for the picture questions, A,2 etc).

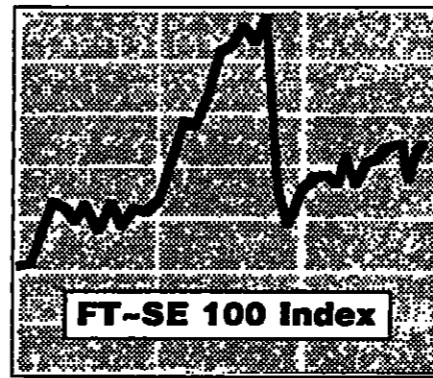
Send your solutions and name and address to Quiz of the Year, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to reach us by first post on Monday, January 9, 1989. The winners and the answers will appear in *The Times* on Saturday, January 14.

THE PASSING SCENE

- The exclusion of which of these authors from a Government-backed reading list for children caused protests?
(a) Ted Hughes?
(b) Spike Milligan?
(c) Erid Blayton?
(d) Charles Dickens?
- When Prince Edward arrived for his first day in his new job, he was carrying:
(a) A Filofax?
(b) A packet of tea-bags?
(c) Yomping boots?
(d) A copy of *Spotlight*?
- Which of the following was the subject of three biographies this year?
(a) Bernard Shaw?
(b) Picasso?
(c) Robert Maxwell?
(d) Truman Capote?
- Who decided to drop the title "Doctor"?
(a) Dr David Owen?
(b) Dr Barnardo?
(c) Dr Seuss?
(d) Dr J. Collis Browne's Compound?
- Who left Britain to settle in Tasmania and work to save the rain forests?
(a) David Bellamy?
(b) Barry Humphries?
(c) Clive James?
(d) Clive Jenkins?
- What proportion of active Church of England members, in an opinion poll, said that their vicar's views on the ordination of women would influence them "not at all"?
(a) 29 per cent?
(b) 42 per cent?
(c) 27 per cent?
(d) 11 per cent?
- Who became a grandmother this year for the first time?
(a) Princess Margaret?
(b) Jacqueline Onassis?
(c) Joan Collins?
(d) Esther Rantzen?
- Who broke the Portland Vase in the British Museum?
(a) Cleaners knocking it down with a ladder?
(b) Laboratory staff, to stick it together again better?
(c) A mentally ill visitor called William Lloyd, with a walking stick?
(d) An unidentified demonstrator demanding the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece?
- Magdalene College, Cambridge, was the last Oxbridge college to do what?
(a) Install a contraceptive dispenser in the Junior Common Room?
(b) Admit women students?
(c) Make its own promotional video?
(d) Mail an appeal for funds to all its alumni?
(e) Sell its list of alumni to City brokers touting for clients?

STAGE, SCREEN AND PRINT

- Which of these films did not include an evil plot against rabbits?
(a) Who Framed Roger Rabbit?
(b) Fatal Attraction?
(c) Jean de Florette?
(d) Babette's Feast?
- Who collaborated in an opera in which all but one of the characters eventually freeze to death?
(a) Ted Hughes?
(b) Doris Lessing?
(c) Olivier Messiaen?
(d) Andrew Lloyd Webber?
- A major work by this year's winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature is banned in his own country. Is this:
(a) Czechoslovakia?
(b) Egypt?
(c) Pakistan?
(d) South Africa?



Does Your Portfolio Have a Future?

Perhaps you should consider investing in a managed futures fund from C. Sturge & Co. Ltd as part of your professional investment portfolio.

WHAT IS A MANAGED FUTURES FUND?
An investment vehicle geared towards high potential capital growth, spread across futures in up to 35 of the major markets around the world from currencies to agriculture, based on the advice of specialists.

BUT AREN'T FUTURES RISKY?
All investments carry a degree of risk and can go down as well as up - futures are no different. We strongly recommend them only for the serious investor.

At C. Sturge & Co. we do not indulge in private investor speculative trading. All investments are managed by experts and trades are executed according to a detailed investment strategy.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?
Simply telephone 01-480 7880 anytime including Christmas or return the coupon to us at C. Sturge & Co. Ltd, Europe House, World Trade Centre, London E1 9AA.

much or as little as you want. First though, he will advise on the best fund to suit your investment strategy.

WHY C. STURGE & CO?
Whether fact finding or investing we aim to exceed our clients' expectations of service. We specialise in the private client market and pride ourselves on a down to earth, individualised approach.

Whatever level of investment and involvement you require put our experts to the test; see if they can't design a strategy to match your risk/reward requirements.

C. Sturge & Co Ltd.
AFBD
MEMBER

I would like to discuss my investment needs.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE NO (work)..... (home).....

These markets are extremely volatile and investors must remember that the value of their investments can fall as well as rise.

GARDENING

Holly, ivy and rambling paths

Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire; 8m SW of Royston. Sunday, January 1: 10am start for four and a half-mile walk through parkland...

What could be more invigorating and enjoyable than a breath of fresh air over Christmas and the new year? Francesca Greenoak roots out the best holiday walks

With the Christmas holiday ribboning along to meet the new year's celebrations, the week or so of festivities begins to seem like a period of confinement...

George le Surf (RA) 0603 623070. Sheringham Park, Norfolk; 2m SW of Sheringham. Tues-

tops. Packed lunch required. Meet NT car park - enter from A148 into the park. Contact as above.

Felbrig Hall, Norfolk; 2m SW of Cromer off A148. Thursday, December 29: 11am start for five-mile walk around the estate...

Wallington Hall, Northumberland; Cambo 12m W of Morpeth (B6343). Thursday, December 29: 10.30am start for choice of two walks...

Erddig Country Park, Clywd; 2m S of Wrexham. Wednesday, December 28: 10am start for four-mile walk along easy terrain...



Wintery trees at Blickling Park, Norfolk, which will be open for an organized walk

WEEKEND TIPS

- Bring baits in pots indoors to flower once the buds have emerged a good 2in/5cm from the leafy neck of the bulb. Clean pots and seed-trays, and disinfect them, ready for next year. Water plants in cool greenhouses sparingly with tepid water in the mornings.

Prices given are for garden only; children half-price unless otherwise indicated.

GARDENS OPEN

CORNWALL: Cotehele, St Dominic, near Saltash, 8m SW of Tavistock. Gardens, grounds and woods on the bank of the River Tamar. Open daily during daylight hours. Admission £1.50.

WILTSHIRE: Stourhead, Sturton, off B3092 3m NW of Mera. 18th-century landscaped garden of 40 acres with lakes, temples and rare evergreen and deciduous trees.

LANCASHIRE: Gawthorpe Hall, N of A671, E of Padiham outskirts. Woodland walks and formal gardens of 2 1/2 acres. Open daily 10am-dusk. Admission £1.50.

SURREY: Royal Botanic Gardens, New, near Richmond. Open 9.30am-4pm. Admission 50p; child under 10 free (not Christmas Day or New Year's Day).

Include winter garden with viburnums, cornus and witch hazels. Open daily 9.30am-dusk. Admission £2; £1.50 for senior citizens; accompanied child free.

FIFE: Kellie Castle Garden, on B9171, 3m NNW of Pittenweem. Formal Victorian garden. Open 10am-dusk. Admission £1.

CHESS

Battle of the giants

The annual Hastings tournament is the oldest traditional event in the chess calendar. The tournament this year is, perhaps, the highest rated ever to be played in the United Kingdom, and the calibre of the contestants guarantees a fascinating struggle.

this Rook into a direct attack against the Black King. 21 e4 g5 22 Rh4 f5 23 Bg5 Kd8 24 Rf5 Ke8 25 Bxg7 Kd7 26 Rf5 Kd8 27 Rf5 Kd8 28 Rf5 Kd8 29 Rf5 Kd8 30 Rf5 Kd8 31 Rf5 Kd8 32 Rf5 Kd8 33 Rf5 Kd8 34 Rf5 Kd8 35 Rf5 Kd8 36 Rf5 Kd8 37 Rf5 Kd8 38 Rf5 Kd8 39 Rf5 Kd8 40 Rf5 Kd8

Here is the major crossroad of the game. If Black had now played 24...Nc5 then 25 Qc1 Ne4 26 Nxg5 Nxe5 27 h4 Rg8 28 f7 Bxf7 29 Qh4 would guarantee White's advantage.

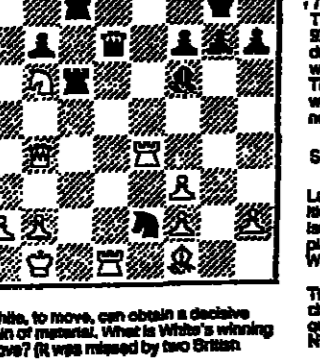
True to his complicated style, Korchnoi chooses a reconnoitre system of development for his Queen's Bishop. The orthodox moves at this point are to be 8 d3 or 8 a3.

A more aggressive procedure would result from the continuation 9...Bg4 at once, to be followed by the thrust...f5, utilizing the presence of the Black Rook on f8 to prosecute the counterattack on the King's wing.



Weaving an inexorable net around the Black King, Aronson can only avoid checkmate at the cost of heavy material loss. 27 g4+ 28 Rf5+ 29 Qh4 30 Qd1 31 Qd1 g4-h4 After 31 Qd2 the Black King remains hopelessly exposed. There are many complicated variations in this line, but nowhere does Black have a clear way of saving himself.

WINNING MOVE



White, to move, can obtain a decisive gain of material. What is White's winning move? (It was missed by two British...)

OUTINGS

Roll up for the big top



Clowning around: preparing for the show (left) with liberal supplies of face paint; making a splash in the ring



season of goodwill. Gardiner Centre for the Arts, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton (box office: 0273 885881). Boxing Day until mid-Jan. 2.30pm and 6pm. Adult £4-25, child £2-25.

BOXING DAY STEAMING: Four rides on Boxing Day - at 11.45am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm. Presents for children, glass of sherry for adults. Midland Railway Centre, Butterley Station, Ripley, Derbyshire (0773 570140). Boxing Day, 11am onwards. Tickets: adults and children aged three-14, £3; under threes, £2.

BRIDGE

Wise words, feet of clay

The greybeards who compare today's cricketers unfavourably with such giants of a previous age as Bradman and Hutton can also be heard in the bridge world. "The moderns lack Reese's technique or Belladonna's flair"; "there'll never be another Garozzo". Perhaps, but the mighty did sometimes have feet of clay. Look at this hand from the Bermuda Bowl played in Brazil in 1961.



Selfridges Exclusive Fur Sale!

Advertisement for Selfridges Exclusive Fur Sale. Includes text: 'Continues...', 'TODAY UNTIL 2.30PM THEN FROM TUESDAY 9.30AM', '50% OFF EVERY FUR INCLUDING EVERY MINK, EVERY FOX, EVERY COYOTE, EVERY RACCOON & EVERY MUSQUASH'. Includes a photograph of people in fur coats and the Selfridges logo.

TRAVEL

Lugubrious elks, glasses of glogg

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK PEPPER



Long ago I identified the Best Meal in the World. To experience it (and I choose the verb with care) you must arrange to be in Stockholm, Sweden, on a Sunday shortly before Christmas - or better still, be there on the Saturday afternoon, as an appetizer.

You will find the city all celebration, all candles on its head. Out from their quays with siren-toots, the little pleasure steamers sail one by one, bedecked with lights and tinsel, taking happy office parties on cruises through the archipelago. Music rings perpetually above the outdoor skating rink, where young

and old swoop and stagger beneath the floodlights, while along the wharves suburban burghers and their wives, attended by bubbling children, load their Volvos with Christmas trees from waterfront vendors.

The shops are decorated in the fastidious Swedish way, opulent but not bloated, and are attended by a host of Christmas elves, elves animate and inanimate, elves plump and elves skinny, mechanically nodding or breathing elves, winking elves and dancing elves and elves sometimes flat on their backs asleep. In windows everywhere, high and low, electric candelabra cheerfully shine. Here and there a pungent, vinous smell attracts you, and upon payment of

The Best Meal in the World comes but once a year, discovers Jan Morris, who samples the superlative in the pre-Christmas magic of Sweden's capital

a few krona a gloved hand reaches out of a dark street-stall, like a messenger from the forest, to hand you a steaming cup of "glogg", the spicy mulled wine of the Swedes.

Here there are people like Lapps, with high cheeks, slant eyes and fur-lined boots. There are gaunt, elderly aristocrats in astrakhan hats. Rosy, laughing girls eat ice-creams in café windows, and old men in boats potter around the ice-strewn harbour, fishing. Half-frigid but ever dauntless, as the sun goes down, the poor sentries stand in their boxes outside the empty royal palace, or march stiffly up and down the cobbled streets behind, while from the great, gilded church of Storkyrkan nearby comes the festive music of an organ.

Is it a dream? Brrr... it is not. It can be extremely cold in Stockholm at Christmas. Bitter blow the sea winds, slippery with snow are the lanes of the Old City, and there are times when, however stoic your temperament or ascetic your tastes, you find yourself running the last few yards to the comfort of the coffee-shop. But then that is the glory of the place and the moment - that so grand a city should be celebrating so merrily in the December gloom of the north.

Sunday dawns brilliant, we may be almost sure. The Best Meal is drawing close, but first you must honour an old Stockholm tradition, and go out to Skaansen on the ferry, through the icy harbour, past the big night boat from Helsinki, leaving the spires and gabled houses of the Old City like an antique engraving behind you. Skaansen is Stockholm's celebrated and beloved folk museum, a large hilly park a mile or two from the centre of town, in which old buildings of all sorts have been lovingly reconstructed, indigenous animals and birds are cherished, and Swedishness in a generic kind reaches a conservative apogee. It is a marvellous place always, but on a Sunday like ours it is magical, for then half Stockholm is out there for the Skaansen Christmas bazaar.

The core of this fête is a rambling assemblage of stalls offering all sorts of Christmas Scandinavian objects - straw goats, and hats with ear-flaps, and little lanterns, and painted wooden horses, and sheepskins, and furry boots, and heart-shaped sweetmeats. People wearing old Swedish costume sell these goods, the women in embroidered caps and voluminous skirts, the men in jenkins and quaint hats, and now and then a thin Swedish-style Santa Claus stalks through, his reindeer impersonated by a colleague bent double beneath a blanket and crowned with a pair of horns.

Around the edge of the bazaar things are livelier still. There the glogg flows, and men are grilling herrings on racks over open fires. A hundred thousand Swedish ducks congregate with confident quacks at the edge of their pond, demanding tithes, and all over the place bundled children are to be

seen petting squirrels, feeding reindeer or in eye-to-eye confrontation with lugubrious elks. High on a roof-top, four storks look down upon the goings-on: into the wooden church beyond the lake an elderly blind couple, well-wrapped, tap their way towards the carol concert.

Getting hungry? The smell of the glogg and the grilled herrings does it, but never mind, it is nearly time to eat. The light is already beginning to fade, but the Best Meal lasts all afternoon, we have plenty of time to walk back to town along the hilariously skiddy pavements beneath the big, bare trees.

Past the waterfront we go, where the white pleasure-steamers announce their yuletide sailings, and past the statue of Charles XII the conqueror, pointing his sword peremptorily towards Leningrad, and presently we stand in the lee of the Stockholm Royal Opera House, flambeaux flaring bravely in the wind along its high parapet. Since 1895 the Operakällaren, on its ground floor, has been the most celebrated restaurant in Sweden, and for many years it has served the most famous of all the world's smorgasbords. This magnificent

The Swedes are at their most genial, their most generous and their least unglutinous

repast is what we have come to Stockholm for. They serve it every day at the Operakällaren, but Sunday is the best day because then, by a long-established custom, Stockholmers like to go there en famille, and a Sunday shortly before Christmas is best of all, for under the blessing of St Lucia you may then share the pleasures of the Swedes at their most genial, their most generous and (I choose my words carefully again, for they are an abstemious people) their least unglutinous.

The ambience of this meal is tremendous. The great baroque dining-room is decorated with a series of mythological paintings which were thought in the 1890s to be downright indecent, but now just seem amiably nubile, and it looks out through big windows to the harbour and the palace. The victuals are displayed on a gigantic table in the middle, and above them, just for Christmas, is suspended a large gingerbread model of the Opera House itself. The light of the chandeliers is subdued, the warmth is palpable, and the head waiter who shows you so courteously to your table looks like a Baltic duke.

White, white is your table-cloth, velvety your chair, fastidiously polished the cutlery, and before you get any further here is your glass of the Operakällaren's own aquavit, Stenborgare, named for an 18th-century opera singer, subtly flavoured with fennel and



Winter sports: (top) a fisherman tries his luck in the harbour; behind him is the Swedish Touring Club. The Operakällaren's head waiter (above) displays some of the delights of the restaurant's smorgasbord

and available nowhere else. Skoll! Like aromatic fire it goes down, and you are ready in body and spirit for the Best Meal in the World.

It is a feast of feasts, not only for food, but of life and sociability, too. The Swedes are famously reserved, but once their shyness is breached they are the most companionable of people and as you line up, plate in hand, for nourishment, kindly voices are sure to guide you towards the most interesting pickled herring, explain to you the history of Stenborgare, introduce you to their mother-in-law Mrs Anderson or urge little Erik to stand up straight when he is addressing strangers.

Little Erik, actually, is sure to be standing up straight already, dressed as he is in his very best suit, with a bow tie and a rather uncomfortable collar, and his sister Eva is extremely smart in blue check, and Mrs Anderson is a most elegant old dame, and altogether your companions present a splendid picture of plump well-being and goodwill, as they urge you to shovel another portion of elk-meat on to the corner of your plate.

Elk-meat, or Swedish caviare, or salmon from great ravaged carcasses, or game, or berries, or cheeses, or cream, or prawns, or pickles, or reindeer tongue - "you can always come back for more," says Mrs Anderson encouragingly. We take her advice, too, for in fact the food is not very filling, the afternoon is long, another Stenborgare presently turns up from nowhere, and the conversation is delightfully digressive. "Will you not have some cloudberries?" asks Eva in her most careful English, "people like them very much in Sweden" - and we do, we do.

So the hours pass, and soon it is pitch black outside the windows, and the lights of the flambeaux are dancing and flickering on the dark. All is friendly, comfortable, decorous and ample. As soon as one family of Andersons leaves, another just as well-dressed, just as smiling, is shown to its table. One salmon is replaced by the next on the great smorgasbord table, one elk succeeds another,

shoals of herrings come and go. The head waiter, when at last the time comes for us to leave, no longer seems like a head waiter at all, or even a duke, but more like an old family friend. We say goodbye to him almost nostalgically: by the nature of things, for most of us the Best Meal in the World can come but once a year.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1988.

TRAVEL NOTES

Swedish National Tourist Office (01-437 5616). An Apex flight to Stockholm with SAS Scandinavian Airlines (01-734 4020) costs £205 return. The Christmas Table at the Operakällaren costs £30 a head; the smorgasbord served for the rest of the year costs £20.

Mixed fortunes on the slopes

The news from the slopes so far has been mixed. The weather has been dominated all month by high pressure to the west of France and low pressure around Finland. This means that the Alps have been under the influence of a north-westerly air flow with occasional disturbances bringing variable snowfalls.

The overall impact of this weather pattern is to give the best snow to the northern side of the eastern end of the Alps. So even the low lying resorts around Salzburg have had masses of snow and the higher resorts such as Ober Gurgl and St Anton have had superb conditions. This should be sufficient to see the Austrian resorts through Christmas and the

New Year even if the weather takes a bad turn. Further west the snow has been less consistent. Although the runs at high levels in the French resorts have had good form, lower down the cover is sparse and would not stand up well to heavy traffic. Italian resorts sheltered from the flow from the north have come off worse, with only the Dolomites having anything like decent cover at all levels.

The weather is, however, on the move. Unfortunately the immediate prospect is for a milder south-westerly air stream to bring a thaw to those areas which are already worse off. So unless this trend is soon reversed there is a danger of a repetition of recent poor Christmases in the western half of the Alps.

W.J. Burroughs



Christmas shopping: a Swede carries off his purchase from the market

YACHT CHARTER
the perfect way to relax...

Yachting Partners International present their Charter Brochure for 1989. Nearly one hundred pages describing the world's finest yachts, and some of the most exciting locations - including Alaska, Japan and the South Pacific, as well as the Mediterranean and the Caribbean.

Learn how the ultimate holiday is planned by us to your exact requirements. Your copy is waiting now.

YACHTING PARTNERS International
Charter rates range between U.S. \$1,000 and \$20,000 per day.
28/29 Richmond Place, Brighton BN2 2NA
Telephone: 0273 571722
Fax: 0273 571720

Singapore - Malaysia - Thailand
A leisurely journey by rail through Malaysia and Thailand. Lush jungle countryside and colourful villages. Travel in old fashioned comfort and stay in luxury hotels. Escorted tour departs 4th March, 17 days, \$975

Peru
Unbelievable mountain scenery of the Andes, the Inca city of Machu Picchu and much more. 19 day escorted tours depart 4th April and 7th Nov. £1,295.

Explorers Travel
5, Queen Anne's Court, Windsor, SL4 1DG
Phone (0753) 842184 - ABTA 2851AATA

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

AMERICA THE EXPERIENCE - NO. 1 TO THE U.S.A.

1990 BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE

Destination	Price
Florida	£299
Las Vegas	£399
Los Angeles	£499
San Francisco	£599
Seattle	£699
Washington DC	£799

PEREGOR 0895 639900 ABTA 47859/IATA

AUSTRALASIA AND AROUND THE WORLD

Travelers offer more value for money flights and stopovers to more destinations than any other organization. Experts in low cost airfares since 1970, we can tailor make your itinerary with up to 50% discounts on Hotels and Car Hire.

City	Price
Sydney	£495
Melbourne	£595
Brisbane	£695
Perth	£795

42-48 South Court Road, London WC6E 1JL

NORTH CYPRUS AND TURKEY

A corner of earth touched by heaven. A holiday in the heart of the Mediterranean. Also other hotels in North Cyprus. Two centre holidays Istanbul and North Cyprus.

SPECIAL WINTER WARMERS

Two weeks 1/2 from £269

TELEPHONE 01-734 4386

The Number One Specialist to North Cyprus. CELEBRITY HOLIDAYS AND TRAVEL, 18, FROTH STREET, LONDON W1V 5TS (A2 Securities Ltd)

WINTER SPORTS

Classy Christmas and New Year skiing from £199

We are offering savings of up to £170 on selected Christmas and New Year ski holidays in Courmayeur, Selva, St. Anton and Verbier.

While our prices are down the Mark Warner quality remains as high as ever - top class resorts, Swiss style food, free ski gear, ski nanny service and a great party atmosphere. Plus all the traditional trimmings from a Christmas tree to a turkey dinner. Limited Xmas and New Year availability in Val d'Isere, Meribel, Zermatt and Kirchbach.

Mark Warner

Telephone: 01-938 1851

WINTER SPORTS

Free chalet village resorts: French ambience, skiing for all ability levels.

- CAUTE
- VALDRE
- LIS DES ALPES

Apartment or family-run hotels, by air or car.

0204 758985 (24 hrs)

FRANCE WITH FLAVOUR

These well-known French wine regions are recommended for the holiday and quality of the wine. Money is just a matter of what you prefer. There's just a matter of what you prefer.

FOR SERIOUS SERVICE

For the last 16 years London Flight Centres have been providing the traveller with a complete travel service.

City	Price
New York	£599
Los Angeles	£699
Toronto	£799
Perth	£899

100, Strand, London WC2R 0JL

TRAVELERS

FLIGHTS TO ASIA

HONG KONG BANGKOK SINGAPORE

RETURN from £399

Phone us now for our best fares, hotel deals and tours throughout Asia.

TRAVELBAG

01-420 89521 (24 hours)

AFRICAN SPECIALISTS

Low cost fares to Africa, Asia, USA, Australia plus many more.

AFRO ASIAN TRAVEL LTD

100, Strand, London WC2R 0JL

TELE: 01-477 2224/4778

WINTER SPORTS

Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

31/12-1 wk from £289 7/11 wk from £199

Plus LARGE GROUP DISCOUNTS

0204 758985 (24 hrs)

SAVE UP TO £100

7 Nts ski chalet HB from Gatwick Free Wine-Ski guiding

AUSTRO TOURS

0727 38191 ATOL 1101

THE WIZARDS OF OZ

Australia, New Zealand, Round the World

Specialist advice, cooking, - tips, - tours, - excursions.

01-420 89521 (24 hours)

TRAVELBAG

FLIGHTS TO ASIA

HONG KONG BANGKOK SINGAPORE

RETURN from £399

01-420 89521 (24 hours)

THAILAND PHILIPPINES

Low cost fares to Thailand, Asia, USA, Australia plus many more.

AFRO ASIAN TRAVEL LTD

100, Strand, London WC2R 0JL

TELE: 01-477 2224/4778

GO SKI

FESTIVE AVAILABILITY FROM THE FRENCH SKI SPECIALISTS

31/12-1 wk from £289 7/11 wk from £199

0204 758985 (24 hrs)

SAVE UP TO £100

7 Nts ski chalet HB from Gatwick Free Wine-Ski guiding

AUSTRO TOURS

0727 38191 ATOL 1101

TRAVELSAVERS

NEW YORK £299

LOS ANGELES £399

LONDON £199

01-420 89521 (24 hours)

THAILAND

Quality holidays to the Kingdom of Gold from £498 to £2000 by convenient scheduled flights

0223-314220

SELF-CATERING MALTA & GOZO

MOST SECRET

0753 851267

GO SKI

FESTIVE AVAILABILITY FROM THE FRENCH SKI SPECIALISTS

31/12-1 wk from £289 7/11 wk from £199

0204 758985 (24 hrs)

SAVE UP TO £100

7 Nts ski chalet HB from Gatwick Free Wine-Ski guiding

AUSTRO TOURS

0727 38191 ATOL 1101

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

Continued from page 33

OLD VIC 020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

Romantic breaks in Italy

Weekends or weeks, honeymoons or second honeymoons. Indulge yourself in Venice, Florence, Rome or Sicily... you deserve it!

01-749 7449 (24 hrs)

SELF-CATERING SPAIN

ASCOT 0990 28666

CHESHIRE 0625 585196

BLADON LINES

The Biggest choice on Skis!

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A SNOWY NEW YEAR!

01-755 3131 (24 hrs)

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S AT LE CHALET SUISSE

010 33 50 73 2411

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

Continued from page 33

OLD VIC 020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

Corfu - Paxos - Skiathos

We specialise in villa holidays and have selected a quality range of beach villas, secluded cottages in olive groves and outcrops for two, close to some of the finest beaches on the islands.

01-340 4163

SELF-CATERING SWITZERLAND

ASCOT 0990 28666

CHESHIRE 0625 585196

BLADON LINES

The Biggest choice on Skis!

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A SNOWY NEW YEAR!

01-755 3131 (24 hrs)

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S AT LE CHALET SUISSE

010 33 50 73 2411

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

Continued from page 33

OLD VIC 020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

Corfu - Paxos - Skiathos

We specialise in villa holidays and have selected a quality range of beach villas, secluded cottages in olive groves and outcrops for two, close to some of the finest beaches on the islands.

01-340 4163

SELF-CATERING SWITZERLAND

ASCOT 0990 28666

CHESHIRE 0625 585196

BLADON LINES

The Biggest choice on Skis!

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A SNOWY NEW YEAR!

01-755 3131 (24 hrs)

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S AT LE CHALET SUISSE

010 33 50 73 2411

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

Continued from page 33

OLD VIC 020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

Corfu - Paxos - Skiathos

We specialise in villa holidays and have selected a quality range of beach villas, secluded cottages in olive groves and outcrops for two, close to some of the finest beaches on the islands.

01-340 4163

SELF-CATERING SWITZERLAND

ASCOT 0990 28666

CHESHIRE 0625 585196

BLADON LINES

The Biggest choice on Skis!

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A SNOWY NEW YEAR!

01-755 3131 (24 hrs)

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S AT LE CHALET SUISSE

010 33 50 73 2411

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

Continued from page 33

OLD VIC 020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

Corfu - Paxos - Skiathos

We specialise in villa holidays and have selected a quality range of beach villas, secluded cottages in olive groves and outcrops for two, close to some of the finest beaches on the islands.

01-340 4163

SELF-CATERING SWITZERLAND

ASCOT 0990 28666

CHESHIRE 0625 585196

BLADON LINES

The Biggest choice on Skis!

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A SNOWY NEW YEAR!

01-755 3131 (24 hrs)

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S AT LE CHALET SUISSE

010 33 50 73 2411

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

Continued from page 33

OLD VIC 020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

020 7546 021 (24 hrs)

Corfu - Paxos - Skiathos

We specialise in villa holidays and have selected a quality range of beach villas, secluded cottages in olive groves and outcrops for two, close to some of the finest beaches on the islands.

01-340 4163

SELF-CATERING SWITZERLAND

ASCOT 0990 28666

CHESHIRE 0625 585196

BLADON LINES

The Biggest choice on Skis!

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A SNOWY NEW YEAR!

01-755 3131 (24 hrs)

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S AT LE CHALET SUISSE

010 33 50 73 2411

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

CHRISTMAS EVE

His kind of woman

TELEVISION CHOICE

Channel 4's 4 season of music documentaries by Christopher Nupen has constituted one of the more worthwhile raids on the television archives...



Cynthia Harvey as Katerina Kabanova, one of the female characters Tchaikovsky became obsessed with (C4, 9.15pm)

factress he never met, Nadezhda von Meck. The good news is that Nupen is planning a second film which will continue the Tchaikovsky story and conclude it.

Peter Waymark

Pickwick fills the gap

RADIO CHOICE

What's this? Christmas Eve and no seasonal whiff of Dickens? Not quite. Though the BBC domestic services carry nothing by Boz...



Mr Pickwick celebrating Christmas Eve (W5, 7.00pm)

Denied Dickens's A Christmas Carol, we shall have to settle for some others in Christmas With the Annual...

Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 8.15 Saturday Stars Here with Jimbo and the Set (7, 8.20 Corners (7, 8.40) ChuckleVision

BBC2

- 9.00 Ceefax 11.15 Carols for Christmas from St David's Hall, Cardiff. With the BBC Welsh Chorus and the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Welsh Guards...

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with Saturday Sport introduced by Geoff Clark; 7.30 Widescreen for Young Scope presented by Tommy Boyd, Timmy Maltin and Michael Strachan

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 Storybook Classics: Santabar's First Christmas. A baby snowflake, lost in the Arctic (1); 10.00 Moneyspinner (7)



Jeff Bridges as the widower and suspect (BBC1, 9.10pm)

SCOTLAND 2.10pm The Officers Connection: The making of a film...

VARIATIONS

from Coventry Cathedral 9.00am Super-Station of Westminster 8.50am Search Boyz...

Radio 1

VHF stereo and MW (medium wave) News on the half-hour until 12.30...

Radio 2

VHF Stereo (except 1.00pm-7.00) & MW (medium wave) News on the hour (except 8.00pm and 9.00pm)

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 7.00 World News 7.00 Twenty-four Hours 7.30 From the West Coast 7.45 New York...

Radio 3

6.55 Weather, followed by News Headlines 7.00 Morning Concert: Weber Overture to Oberon...

Radio 4

6.55 News: The Best of Times - The Worst of Times: Last episode in the seven-part series based on the life of Charles Dickens...

Radio 5

6.55 Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing: Weather 6.10 The Farming Week from Lancashire...

Radio 6

6.55 News: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: Live from King's College Chapel, Cambridge...

LW (long wave) (S) Stereo on

5.55 Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing: Weather 6.10 The Farming Week from Lancashire...

11.00 News

11.00 News: A Year in Westminster: James Naughton is joined in Jacobs Well, Surrey, by the panelists: John Wakeham MP, Leader of the Commons, Gresh Powell, John Prescott MP, and Shirley Williams (7) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

HEAL'S SALE. Starts Tuesday 27th December. Up to 20% off selected ranges of Heal's own upholstery in fabrics & leather. 20% off selected ranges of fitted bedroom furniture. 15% off Heal's handmade beds. At least 10% off big selection of Heal's dining, storage & occasional furniture. At least 10% off Heal's bedroom furniture, beds, childrens furniture & sofas. Save at least 30% on discontinued and less than perfect fabrics, china, glass and linens. Up to 50% off discontinued and display furniture in our Tottenham Court Road and Croydon stores. INTEREST FREE CREDIT. Subject to status - minimum loan value £500. Ask for written details at our stores (Licensed Credit Brokers). All offers subject to availability. A STOREHOUSE PLC COMPANY. London, Guildford, Croydon, Kingston, Reading, West Thurrock.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

CHRISTMAS DAY

Tales from tinsel town

BBC1

- 6.55 Now It's Christmas beginning with The Christmas Toy (7.45) The Christmas Raccoons. A musical cartoon narrated by Rich Little with the singing voices of Rita Coolidge and Rupert Holmes (7).

BBC2

- 10.00 Film: Storm Boy (1976) starring Greg Rows, Peter Cummins and David Gulpilil. An award-winning picture about a young man living with his father on the south Australian coast who becomes friends with an aborigine of his own age. Directed by Henri Safran

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am, introduced by Tommy Boyd and Michaela Strachan, begins with an RSPB film about robins, narrated by Bernard Cribbins. Other highlights include carols from around the regions at 7.30 and an animated version of the children's favourite Black Beauty at 8.30

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Fable Tale Theatre: Pinocchio, starring Paul Reubens as the wooden puppet who evolves into a human. (Oracle)

TELEVISION CHOICE

Those looking for a witty and fast-moving entertainment with more spice to it than much of the Christmas evening fare can do no better than tune in to Once in a Lifetime (BBC2, 8.30pm). Moss Hart's and George S. Kaufman's satire on the arrival of the talkies in Hollywood, a non-musical companion piece to Singin' in the Rain, goes back more than half a century but it remains a furiously accurate picture of a nervous and chaotic industry.



Kristoffer Tabori and Zoe Wanamaker star as two vandynde players seeking their fortune in Hollywood (BBC2, 8.30pm)

The big attraction on ITV this evening, leaving aside yet another airing of Denis Norden's anthology of moments television personalities would rather forget, is London's Burning (8.45pm), a 90-minute 'special' about the boys and girls of Blackwell fire station. It is an interesting stage origins of the piece are not entirely disguised and you can almost see the curtain coming down between acts. But for most of the time sheer exuberance carries it along.

A Christmas cracker

RADIO CHOICE

"Did you put the cat out?" "No, it wasn't on fire." "Have you ever seen a comic strip?" "Only in a steam bath - and it was ghastly!" No, not Christmas cracker jokes, but the best worst thing: off-colour quotes from The Goon Show (Radio 2, 1.30pm). Happily, recuperation is swift. In any case, you won't have heard any of it before, for this is the Christmas 1956 edition that, up to now, has been heard only outside the United Kingdom. In this spoof panto, vaguely to do with Robin Hood, the biggest cheer is rightly reserved for Peter Sellers' Bluebottle ("No, don't tie me to a stake! I'm a vegetarian!").



Peter Sellers, who wins the biggest cheer (R2, 1.30pm)

Portrait of the composer/producer, married only by unhelpful comments like "he was always searching for the perfect sound", which seems more appropriate to The Glenn Miller Story. There is a special bonus piano recording made by Mahler himself in 1905. You won't have heard them before.

Edward Sackville West's adaptation of The Pilgrim's Progress (6.30pm). This was the one with Gielgud at his mellifluous best as Christian, and with the music Vaughan Williams wrote for the original 1943 radio production. And, if you missed A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, you won't want to miss it again today (Radio 3, 1.55pm).

For comedy, nothing will quite measure up to The Goon Show, but I can, I think, safely recommend the Christmas Day 1958 recording of 'Take It From Here' (Radio 2, 7.00pm); Bob Sinfield's 45-minute tribute to Hoffmann (Radio 4, 6.15pm) which could have run to twice that length without a word of protest from me; and the repeat of Ayckbourn's Relatively Speaking (Radio 4, 7.45pm) - a showcase, if ever there was one, for the radio artistry of Michael Aldridge and Rosemary Leach.

Peter Davalle



on Radio 4 during the coming week

6.15 Hoffmann: Documentary celebration in words and music of the composer's life. Introduced by Michael Sinfield with the aid of Annette Hoffmann, Joseph Haydn, Carl Czerny, and Harry Entick (s)

BCB1 WALSLEY 6.30pm-7.15pm ANGLIA As London except 6.30-7.15pm. In Line Flynn (Jenny Seagrave) 6.00-6.30 Christmas Cartoon: Scooby Goes Hollywood.

VARIATIONS GRANADA As London except 6.30-7.15pm. In Line Flynn (Jenny Seagrave) 6.00-6.30 Christmas Cartoon: Scooby Goes Hollywood.

FOR YOUR FURTHER VIEWING PLEASURE THE FINEART FILE THE MAGAZINE ABOUT COLLECTING BRITISH AND EUROPEAN PAINTINGS ISSUE II NOW AVAILABLE - FREE

6.55 Weather and News 7.00 Jack Brymer: Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Martin

LW (long wave) (a) Stereo on VHS 5.55 Shipping Forecast 6.00 News: Prelude: A sequence of seasonal events (a)

6.15 Hoffmann: Documentary celebration in words and music of the composer's life. Introduced by Michael Sinfield with the aid of Annette Hoffmann, Joseph Haydn, Carl Czerny, and Harry Entick (s)

TELEVISION AND RADIO

BOXING DAY

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham



- BBC1
7.00 Now It's Christmas starting with The Muppet Babies (r).
7.20 Champion the Wonder Horse (b/w) in Sailed Ground (r).

- BBC1
5.20 Jun'll Fix It. Among those for whom Jimmy Savile makes dreams come true are a 13-year-old who accompanies Kiri Te Kanawa on the harp; and a 14-year-old who has lunch with her pop idol Glenn Medeiros at his home on a Hawaiian island. (Ceefax)

- ITV LONDON
6.00 TV-am begins with Boxing Day Sport presented by Geoff Clark; 7.00 Wimbledon Special.

- CHANNEL 4
9.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school starring Ernie. The guest is Victor Borg.
10.30 Race Against the Wind. This first of a repeated series of Acquisgrain Adventures documents the fortunes of six young people as they sail from Prince Rupert in Alaska to Vancouver.

The Renaissance men



David Parfitt (left) with Kenneth Branagh, who founded the Renaissance Theatre Company last year, provide a behind-the-scenes look at theatrical democracy at work (C4, 7.00pm)

TELEVISION CHOICE

It is easy to mock the Reader's Digest as the sort of publication that would condense War and Peace into three pages and pass it off as literature... but News From Pheasantville (BBC2, 9.55pm) pays the compliment of taking seriously the world's most read magazine with 100 million readers in 197 countries.

- BBC2
9.00 Ceefax.
11.00 Film: Fort Apache (1948, b/w) starring John Wayne and Henry Fonda. Western drama about an embittered US cavalry colonel who is posted to a remote fort in the Arizona desert. Directed by John Ford. (Ceefax)

- BBC2
6.00 Film: The Maltese Falcon (1941, b/w) starring Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Peter Lorre and Sydney Greenstreet. Classic thriller about a private detective trying to trace a priceless black statuette. Directed by John Huston.

- CHANNEL 4
9.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school starring Ernie. The guest is Victor Borg.
10.30 Race Against the Wind. This first of a repeated series of Acquisgrain Adventures documents the fortunes of six young people as they sail from Prince Rupert in Alaska to Vancouver.

- CHANNEL 4
6.00 Pacific Tale Theatre. Regency starring Shelley Duvall and Jeff Bridges. (Ceefax)
7.00 News summary and weather followed by Caught in the Act. (See Choice)

Pulling out all stops

RADIO CHOICE

Having got it into their heads that Boxing Day and Ben Travers are one and the same (and who am I to question this?), the planners of Radio 4's holiday fare have come up with The Dippers (7.20pm). First a novel, then a stage play and now a radio play adapted from the novel by Peter King, it packs in every element of Travers' farce except the falling trousers.



Roger Moore stars as the secret agent, James Bond, in Octopussy, an adventure set partly in India (ITV, 3.40pm)

- BBC1
Wales Today 8.30am-9.30am
8.30am ANGLIA As London
8.45am GMB Night: Ross King's league quiz.
8.55am BORDER As London
9.00am This Company: The first of three news items in Christmas.

- VARIATIONS
TWS As London
8.30am This Company: Three's Christmas.
TVS As London
8.30am This Company: Three's Christmas.
TYNE TEES As London
8.30am This Company: Three's Christmas.

- ULSTER As London
8.30am This Company: Three's Christmas.
YORKSHIRE As London
8.30am This Company: Three's Christmas.
SAC As London
8.30am This Company: Three's Christmas.

Radio 1

- VHF Stereo and MW (medium wave)
8.30am Adrian John 8.00
Philip Schofield 10.00 Simon Bates, mid 12.30 Newsbeat
2.00 Steve Wright 4.55 Newsbeat
5.00 UK Top 40 with Mark Goodier 7.00 The Radio 1's Best Beatles Tapes 7.30 Radio 1's Christmas Concert featuring INXS
8.30 John Peel 9.30-10.00
10.00am Andy Peebles Soul Train.

Radio 3

- 6.55 Weather, followed by News Headlines
Christmas Oratorio: J S Bach's Undes Garen Hirten in derelben Wagen; English Baroque Solists and Monteverdi Choir under Gardiner with Ruth Hollen (soprano), Nancy Argenta (soprano), Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo-soprano), Anthony Rolfe-Johnson (tenor), Hans-Peter Blochwitz (tenor), and Olaf Sar (baritone)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert: Ravel (Valdes nobles et Benvenuto Cellini; Sussie Romande Orchestra under Anselmi); Cantelouse (Belser; Of Ayat; and La Delaisade; Ravel under Almeida with Frederica von Stade, soprano); Poulenc (Organ Concerto); French National Radio Orchestra under Martiniou with Marie-Claire Alain, organ)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900). Overture in D major; RLP under Groves; I Was Born... Were a King; David Wilson-Johnson (baritone) and Anthony Saunders (piano); Duo concertos; David Smith (cello) and John Parry (piano); Incidental music to The Tempest; CBSO under Durrum
9.30 Glorious John: Celebration of the conductor and cellist, Sir John Barrowell with the Halle Orchestra; Philharmonia Orchestra; New York Philharmonic Orchestra; London Symphony Orchestra; Evelyn Barbiroff (oboe), Janet Baker (mezzo-soprano), Jacqueline du Pre (cello) and Ruth Farnay (piano); Brahms's Academic Festival Overture; Gounod's Little Symphony for wind; Pergolesi's Concerto for oboe and strings; Jaroslav Skvacek's The Swan; Sibelius's The Swan of Tuonela; Ravel's Sheherazade; Berlioz: Overture Roman Carnival; Sgarbi's Cello Concerto in E minor; Mahler's Symphony No 3 in C sharp minor
12.50 Summoned by the Bell: 1988 recording of John Benjamin reading his 10-chapter autobiographical poem. Chapter one: Before 1914 (r)
1.00 News
1.05 A Haydn Festival: First nine concertos of Haydn's 18th chamber work; Tchaikovsky Quartet with Marc Lupu (piano) and Ralu

Radio 4

- 6.55 Weather, followed by News Headlines
Christmas Oratorio: J S Bach's Undes Garen Hirten in derelben Wagen; English Baroque Solists and Monteverdi Choir under Gardiner with Ruth Hollen (soprano), Nancy Argenta (soprano), Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo-soprano), Anthony Rolfe-Johnson (tenor), Hans-Peter Blochwitz (tenor), and Olaf Sar (baritone)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert: Ravel (Valdes nobles et Benvenuto Cellini; Sussie Romande Orchestra under Anselmi); Cantelouse (Belser; Of Ayat; and La Delaisade; Ravel under Almeida with Frederica von Stade, soprano); Poulenc (Organ Concerto); French National Radio Orchestra under Martiniou with Marie-Claire Alain, organ)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900). Overture in D major; RLP under Groves; I Was Born... Were a King; David Wilson-Johnson (baritone) and Anthony Saunders (piano); Duo concertos; David Smith (cello) and John Parry (piano); Incidental music to The Tempest; CBSO under Durrum
9.30 Glorious John: Celebration of the conductor and cellist, Sir John Barrowell with the Halle Orchestra; Philharmonia Orchestra; New York Philharmonic Orchestra; London Symphony Orchestra; Evelyn Barbiroff (oboe), Janet Baker (mezzo-soprano), Jacqueline du Pre (cello) and Ruth Farnay (piano); Brahms's Academic Festival Overture; Gounod's Little Symphony for wind; Pergolesi's Concerto for oboe and strings; Jaroslav Skvacek's The Swan; Sibelius's The Swan of Tuonela; Ravel's Sheherazade; Berlioz: Overture Roman Carnival; Sgarbi's Cello Concerto in E minor; Mahler's Symphony No 3 in C sharp minor
12.50 Summoned by the Bell: 1988 recording of John Benjamin reading his 10-chapter autobiographical poem. Chapter one: Before 1914 (r)
1.00 News
1.05 A Haydn Festival: First nine concertos of Haydn's 18th chamber work; Tchaikovsky Quartet with Marc Lupu (piano) and Ralu

Radio 5

- 6.55 Weather, followed by News Headlines
Christmas Oratorio: J S Bach's Undes Garen Hirten in derelben Wagen; English Baroque Solists and Monteverdi Choir under Gardiner with Ruth Hollen (soprano), Nancy Argenta (soprano), Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo-soprano), Anthony Rolfe-Johnson (tenor), Hans-Peter Blochwitz (tenor), and Olaf Sar (baritone)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert: Ravel (Valdes nobles et Benvenuto Cellini; Sussie Romande Orchestra under Anselmi); Cantelouse (Belser; Of Ayat; and La Delaisade; Ravel under Almeida with Frederica von Stade, soprano); Poulenc (Organ Concerto); French National Radio Orchestra under Martiniou with Marie-Claire Alain, organ)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900). Overture in D major; RLP under Groves; I Was Born... Were a King; David Wilson-Johnson (baritone) and Anthony Saunders (piano); Duo concertos; David Smith (cello) and John Parry (piano); Incidental music to The Tempest; CBSO under Durrum
9.30 Glorious John: Celebration of the conductor and cellist, Sir John Barrowell with the Halle Orchestra; Philharmonia Orchestra; New York Philharmonic Orchestra; London Symphony Orchestra; Evelyn Barbiroff (oboe), Janet Baker (mezzo-soprano), Jacqueline du Pre (cello) and Ruth Farnay (piano); Brahms's Academic Festival Overture; Gounod's Little Symphony for wind; Pergolesi's Concerto for oboe and strings; Jaroslav Skvacek's The Swan; Sibelius's The Swan of Tuonela; Ravel's Sheherazade; Berlioz: Overture Roman Carnival; Sgarbi's Cello Concerto in E minor; Mahler's Symphony No 3 in C sharp minor
12.50 Summoned by the Bell: 1988 recording of John Benjamin reading his 10-chapter autobiographical poem. Chapter one: Before 1914 (r)
1.00 News
1.05 A Haydn Festival: First nine concertos of Haydn's 18th chamber work; Tchaikovsky Quartet with Marc Lupu (piano) and Ralu

WHEN HOME SECURITY LOOKS THIS GOOD...
FITS ANY STYLE OF WINDOW OR DOOR
CORULLA
Famous in Europe... now Britain's No.1 name in home shutters.
FREEPOST TODAY No Stamp Needed
Please send me a comprehensive information pack

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PREVIEW

Compiled by Peter Waymark

Firsts and old favourites in store

Our guide to post-Christmas viewing and listening starts with a complete list of feature films

HOLIDAY TUESDAY

- AROUND THE WORLD WITH DOT (1982): Australian children's cartoon in which Santa helps a little girl find her lost kangaroo. BBC1, 7.50-8.55am.
THE MIRACLE OF THE WHITE STALLIONS (1982): Disney family adventure with Robert Taylor as the director of Vienna's Spanish Riding School trying to save his horses from the Nazis. ITV, 9.50-noon.
WORDS AND MUSIC (1948): Tom Drake and Mickey Rooney in a likeable and song-filled biopic of Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart. BBC2, 10am-noon.
PASSPORT TO PIMLICO (1949): Stanley Holloway and Margaret Rutherford lead the fun in the classic Ealing comedy about a London suburb declaring UDI from Britain's post-war austerity. BBC2, noon-1.20pm.
SHANE (1953): George Stevens's deliberately paced and impressively crafted western, with Alan Ladd as the mysterious gunman coming to the aid of a family of homesteaders. ITV, 12.40-2.50pm.
THE HEROES OF TELEMAR (1965): Over-long Second World War adventure with Richard Harris and Kirk Douglas as resistance workers destroying a heavy water plant in occupied Norway. BBC1, 2.50-6pm.
THE AFRICAN QUEEN (1951): Humphrey Bogart's drunken river trader and Katharine Hepburn's prim missionary make a delightfully odd couple in John Huston's classic comedy-adventure. BBC2, 6.50-8.30pm.
THE EAGLE HAS LANDED (1976): Donald Sutherland and Michael Caine in so-so version of Jack Higgins's story about a Nazi pilot to kidnap Winston Churchill. BBC1, 9.50pm-midnight.
THE WICKED LADY (1945): Highway robbery with Margaret Lockwood and James Mason in the king of the Gainsborough melodramas. Considered scandalous at the time, now a quaint period piece. BBC1, midnight-1.40am.
FURY (1936): Fritz Lang making his Hollywood debut with a powerful Lynch-mob drama starring Spencer Tracy as the tragic victim of mistaken identity. Channel 4, 12.40-2.25am.
BATTLEFLAG (1977): Simon Ward as an Austrian officer in love and



All sacked up and ready to go: Billy (Zach Galligan) steps out on the road to adventure carrying his eccentric travelling companion (Gremlins: Thursday, ITV, 9-10pm, 10.20-11.20pm)

powerful early talkie, which pulls out all the expressionist stops. Channel 4, 11.50pm-1.50am.
ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS (1938): Cary Grant, Jean Arthur and Rita Hayworth lead Howard Hawks's tough and wryly humorous story of airman under stress. BBC1, midnight-1.55am.
NATIONAL LAMPPOON'S CLASS REUNION (1982): The Animal House formula applied to murderous goings-on at a college reunion. ITV, 12.20-2am.
MURDER BY DECREE (1978): Sherlock Holmes (Christopher Plummer) in tedious pursuit of Jack the Ripper, despite strong cast and striking sets. ITV, 3-5am.

FRIDAY
TO PARIS WITH LOVE (1956): Thin comedy from Robert (Kend Hears and Corones) Warner about a widower (Alec Guinness) and his son seeking romance in the French capital. BBC2, 11.45am-1pm.
THE LADY EVE (1941): Sparkling Preston Sturges comedy with Barbara Stanwyck as the cardsharp outwitted by Henry Fonda's naive millionaire. Channel 4, 1-2.45pm.
FLYING LEATHERNECKS (1961): John Wayne as a marines' marine commander at the battle of Guadalcanal; tedious drama, spectacular flying sequences. BBC1, 2.10-3.50pm.
CASABLANCA (1942): Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman romantically tamed in war-torn Africa. BBC2, 6-7.40pm.
THE BLACK HOLE (1979): Maximilian Schell as a mad scientist in the Disney space fantasy. The gadgetry is more arresting than the people. ITV, 6.30-8.15pm.

BLUE THUNDER (1982): Frenzied thriller starring Roy Scheider as a Los Angeles helicopter pilot haunted by memories of Vietnam. BBC1, 9.30-11.15pm.
STOP MAKING SENSE (1984): Jonathan Demme's superb rock concert film with Talking Heads. BBC2, 10.20-11.45pm.
PAULINE AT THE BEACH (1982): Eric Rohmer's subtle and stylish study of young Parisians enjoying a holiday romance in Normandy. BBC2, 11.45pm-1.20am.
STALAG 17 (1953): Billy Wilder's cynical comedy-drama about Americans in a German prison camp. BBC1, 11.55pm-1.55am.
YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE (1937): Henry Fonda as the doomed convict on the run. Channel 4, 11.55pm-1.30am.
LUST IN THE DUST (1965): Tab Hunter and Divine head Paul Bartel's fitfully amusing spoof. ITV, 12.35-2am.
British television premiere.

WEDNESDAY

WHISKY GALORE! (1949): Alexander Mackendrick's witty and fast-moving Ealing comedy with Hebridean islanders trying to outwit the customs men over shipwrecked Scotch. Joan Greenwood shines in a cast of British comedy stalwarts. BBC2, noon-1.20pm.
ONE MAGIC CHRISTMAS (1985): Harry Dean Stanton plays angel to a family with problems in a Disney fantasy reminiscent of the old James Stewart vehicle, It's a Wonderful Life. ITV, 1.30-3.15pm.
British television premiere.
GERONIMO (1982): Chuck Connors as the Apache chief in a

cavalry versus Indians adventure which tries to be fair to the Indians. BBC1, 2.10-3.50pm.
BUSHFIRE MOON (1987): Australian children's film about a white bearded rascal (Charles Tingwell) mistaken for Santa Claus. BBC1, 4.45-5.35pm; concludes Friday 4.40-5.35pm.
British television premiere.
THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE (1947): John Huston directs his father, Walter Huston, Humphrey Bogart and Tim Holt in a bitter-sweet tale of gold prospecting in Mexico. BBC2, 6-8.05pm.
THE COTTON CLUB (1984): Francis Coppola's messy epic of jazz, gangsters and romance in 1930s Harlem; with Richard Gere, Gregory Hines and Bob Hoskins. BBC2, 8.40-11.40pm.
British television premiere.
TOP SECRET! (1984): Tapkid spy spoof from the Airplane! team.

ITV, 10.20pm-midnight.
British television premiere.
TWO RODE TOGETHER (1961): James Stewart and Richard Widmark seeking the release of prisoners held by the Comanches. BBC1, Wed, 11pm-12.45am.
MINISTRY OF FEAR (1943): Ray Milland wins a cake at a village fête and wishes he hadn't in Fritz Lang's crisp and unpretentious thriller. Channel 4, 11.55pm-1.30am.
ROBBERY (1967): Peter Yates's efficient fictional reconstruction of the Great Train Robbery of four years earlier, with Stanley Baker leading the gang. ITV, 1-3.05am.

THURSDAY

THE MAN IN THE WHITE SUIT (1951): Unusually barbed Ealing comedy from Alexander

Mackendrick with Alec Guinness as the hapless inventor of an indestructible fabric who manages to enrage both bosses and unions. BBC2, 11.55am-1.20pm.
SHERLOCK JUNIOR (1924): Buster Keaton as the cinema projectionist who dreams of becoming a great detective; one of his best silents with an avalanche of brilliant gags. Channel 4, 1-1.50pm.
JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS (1963): Todd Armstrong plays Jason but the real star is the special effects man, Ray Harryhausen. ITV, 1.30-3.25pm.
DEVIL-SHIP PIRATES (1963): Hammer taking time out from horror with a pirate adventure featuring Christopher Lee as a brutal Spanish captain. BBC1, 2.10-3.30pm.
TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (1945): Loosely based on a Hemingway story of the wartime French

resistance and the film in which director Howard Hawks launched the potent screen chemistry of Humphrey Bogart and new screen star Lauren Bacall. BBC2, 6-7.35pm.
GREMLINS (1984): Joe Dante's smash hit horror fantasy from the Spielberg factory about little furry creatures who have to be handled gently. Targeted at the family audience but not recommended for the squeamish. ITV, 9-10pm, 10.20-11.20pm.
British television premiere.
ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST (1975): Jack Nicholson raising hell in a mental hospital with nurse Louise Fletcher in Milos Forman's triumphant, Oscar-laden version of the Ken Kesey novel. BBC2, 10pm-12.05am.
British television premiere.
M (1951): Peter Lorne as the pathetic child murderer hunted down by criminals in Fritz Lang's

Battle of the heavyweights

TELEVISION

Two dramatic heavyweights dominate the schedules on Tuesday, and I do not mean the feature-length Bergerac (BBC1, 8pm). On BBC2 the Jack Lemmon season continues with Long Day's Journey Into Night (9.35pm), with Lemmon as Eugene O'Neill's disintegrating patriarch in the production by Jonathan Miller which played in the West End two years ago. On Channel 4, meanwhile, Othello (9pm) gives Shakespeare's study of racial prejudice contemporary relevance by staging it in Johannesburg with a black South African, John Kani, in the title role. The production marks the directing debut of South African-born Janet Suzman.

the interview than Two Rode Together (BBC1, 11pm). Lisa Goddard and co-author Ray Cooney lead the marital comedy Wife Begins at 40 (BBC1, 9.30pm). Unusually for a television play, it was recorded before a studio audience.



Patriarch: Jack Lemmon (BBC2, Tuesday, 9.35pm)

looks at how films blend animation and live action. After starring with John Hurt in Poison Candy, American actress Karen Young turns up again on Friday in David Pirie's Wild Things (BBC2, 9pm), in which two nasty kids plot to destroy their dad's relationship with his new girlfriend. There is a drama of a more traditional kind in Renaissance Theatre's sparkling Twelfth Night (Channel 4, 9pm), with Kenneth Branagh directing Richard Briers (Malvolio) and Frances Barber (Viola). Time was when no Christmas was complete without people like Glenda Jackson making fools of themselves with Eric and Ernie. Reminders of those golden moments are provided by The Musical Classics of Moselembe and Wise (BBC1, 7.40pm). In Art Review '88 (ITV, 10.35pm) Melvyn Bragg looks back with the help of David Hare and Antony Sher.

Channel 4's cultural treat on Wednesday is Eugene Onegin (9pm), a film of Tchaikovsky's opera shot in the original locations to an audio recording made by Sir Georg Solti at Covent Garden in the 1970s. The French and Saunders Christmas Special (BBC1, 9pm) will be less anyone than most other people's specials.

Also on Thursday The British and the Oscars (ITV, 7pm) celebrates British-born recipients of the statistics such as Caine, Fattasin and Asteris ought and, yes, Bob Hope, and throws in Jean Fontaine and Olivia de Havilland, daughters of British parents. Roger Rabbit and the Secrets of Toontown (ITV, 11.20pm)

Thursday's nostalgic Lady Be Good (BBC2, 7.35pm), is about Ivy Benson and her all-girl dance band. Comedy writer Jimmy Perry and David Croft have raided the casts of Hi-De-Hi and It Ain't Half Hot Mum for an hour-long pilot You Rang, M'Lord? (BBC1, 8pm) about life above and below stairs in the 1920s.

RADIO

In Tuesday's Conversation Piece in Hollywood (Radio 4, 9.05am) Sue McGregor takes on the notoriously interviewee Anne Bancroft. Since the programme is scheduled to last 30 minutes, listeners may assume that McGregor does somewhat better than Terry Wogan when faced with the same challenge.



As herself: Anne Bancroft (R4, Tuesday, 9.05am)

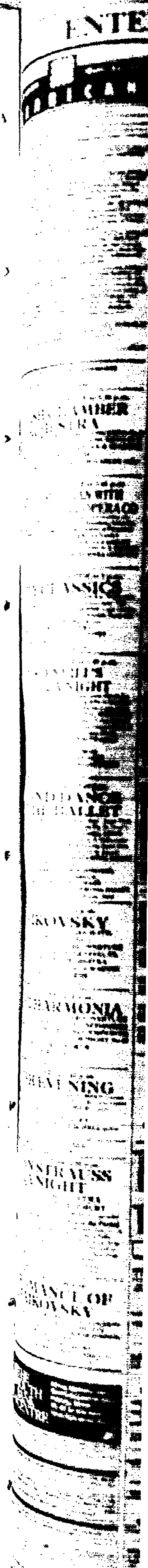
Alan Bennett plays Macki-avelli, with Prunella Scales as his missus in Better Halves? (Radio 3, 7.05pm), the second of Christopher Hope's "historical travesties". Sigmund Freud (Andrew Sachs) meets Sherlock Holmes (Ronald Pickup) in Cecil Jenkins's spoof, The Singular Case of Sherlock H. and Sigmund F. (Radio 3, 8.55pm), which aims to throw new light on the fate of Professor Moriarty.

Before he became an actor, Maurice Denham helped to install the lifts at Broadcasting House. He has been there on and off ever since, giving a stream of marvellous radio performances from ITMA and Much Binding in the Marsh to classical and modern drama. On Thursday he plays Moliere's hypochondriac Argan in a special production of The Imaginary Invalid (Radio 4, 7.20pm) to mark his 50th year

in broadcasting. Jane Lapotaine, Charlotte Attenborough and Stratford Johns head a strong supporting cast. The Friday Play on Radio 3 is Edward Sackville-West's The Rescue (7.30pm). Written in 1943, it used Homer's Odyssey to draw parallels between ancient Ithaca and wartime Greece. It has since

become a radio classic, and this production is the seventh. The incidental music is by Benjamin Britten. Scored for solo singers, chorus and symphony orchestra, it was Britten's most substantial work for radio and stage drama. Richard Pasco plays Odysseus, with Anna Massey as Penelope.

THE JANUARY SALE THAT LEAVES OTHERS OUT IN THE COLD. FOX JACKETS & MUSQUASH JACKETS (SECTION) £200 to £50. FUR LINED RAINCOATS £295 to £99. RACCOON JACKETS 3/4 LENGTH £395 to £129. MINK JACKETS VARIOUS COLOURS £595 to £150. SCANDINAVIAN BLUE FOX COATS FULL LENGTH £695 to £279. MINK COATS (SECTION) FULL LENGTH £895 to £299. SILVER FOX COATS FULL LENGTH £1195 to £399. DESIGNER MINK/FOX TRIM COATS FULL LENGTH £1495 to £695. FULLY STRANDED CANADIAN RACCOON COATS £2195 to £795. FULLY STRANDED DESIGNER MINK COATS £2995 to £995. Two days only Monday 26 December and Tuesday 27 December. 9.30am-6pm. At the Cyril Kaye Superstore 80 Piccadilly, London W1 Tel: 495 5959. UP TO 75% OFF. Cyril Kaye & Company (Est. 1926).



ENTERTAINMENTS

No immunity without official notice

Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Osman (No 2)
Before Lord Justice Mustill and Mr Justice McCowan
[Judgment December 21]

Extradition courts bound by previous cases

Regina v Governor of Brixton Prison, Ex parte Aronson
Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Leggatt
[Judgment December 20]

Procedure for admitting computer printout

Regina v Minors
Regina v Harper
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Bush and Mr Justice Slynn
[Judgment December 14]

Different punishments create different offences

Gardner v DPP
Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Leggatt
[Judgment December 7]

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL. THREE NEW YEAR GALA CONCERTS with the ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA.

at the BARRICAN. WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 7.45 SPANISH FIESTA NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30 MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE.

City of Westminster WIGMORE HALL. PETER FRANKL presents. THE NEW YEAR GALA.

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. TUESDAY 21 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m. A NIGHT AT THE COTTON CLUB.

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. NEW YEAR'S DAY at 3.15 and 7.30 p.m. JOHANN STRAUSS GALA NIGHT.

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. FRIDAY 20 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m. THE ROMANCE OF TCHAIKOVSKY.

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE. OPERA & BALLET.

BARBICAN. CENTRE CLOSED 24/25 DECEMBER. THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER at 3.30 p.m. ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA.

RAYMOND GURRAY presents at the BARBICAN. TUESDAY NEXT 27 DECEMBER at 3.30 p.m. ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA.

at the BARBICAN. WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 7.45 SPANISH FIESTA NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30 MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE.

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. TUESDAY 21 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m. A NIGHT AT THE COTTON CLUB.

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. NEW YEAR'S DAY at 3.15 and 7.30 p.m. JOHANN STRAUSS GALA NIGHT.

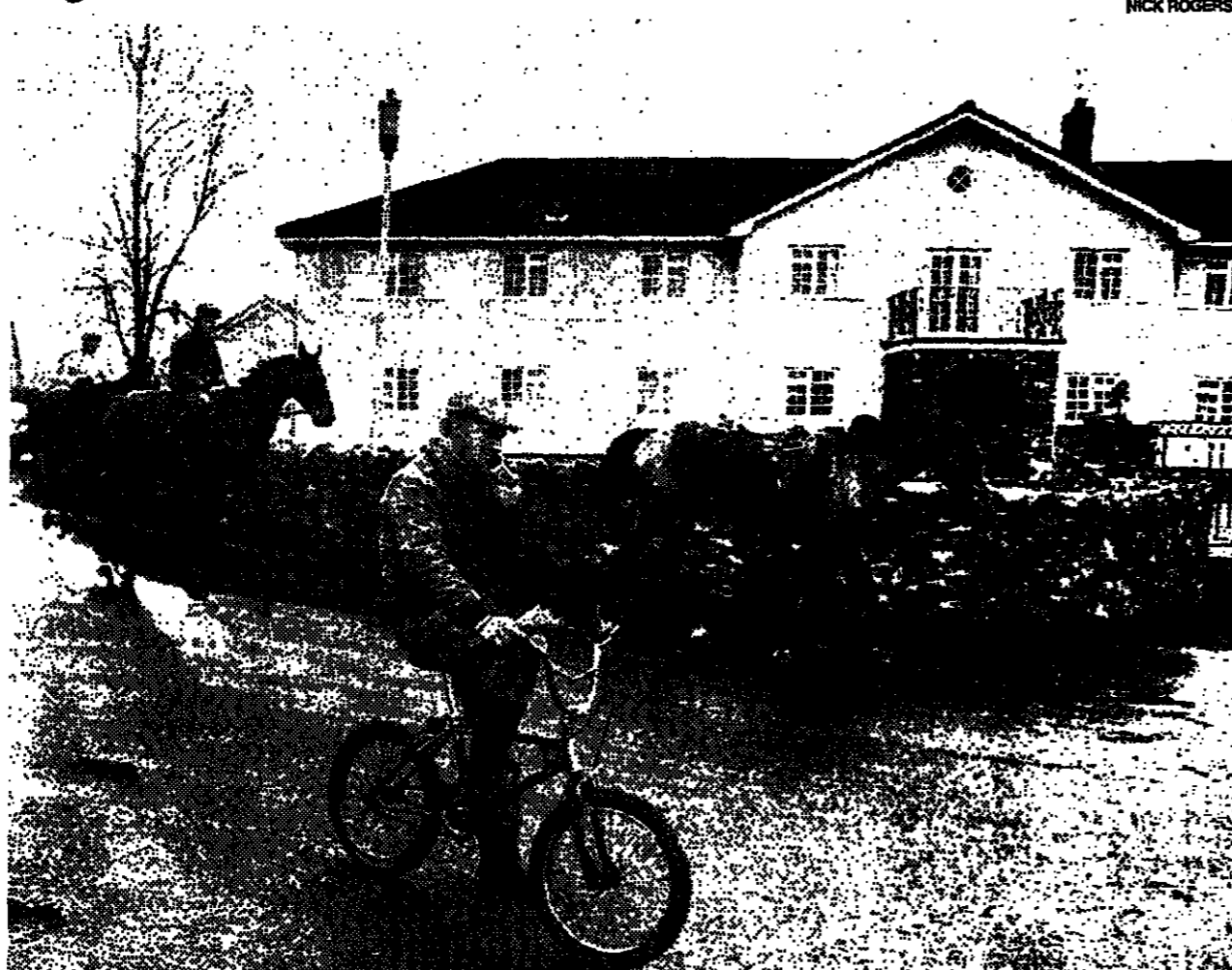
at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. FRIDAY 20 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m. THE ROMANCE OF TCHAIKOVSKY.

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE. OPERA & BALLET.

The Times on Monday will provide the best guide to the day's eight meetings, with full cards, the latest news and a profile of Richard Rowe, one of the riders missing the festive action. We are the only quality newspaper publishing on Monday, and the trade press will not be appearing

Reality behind Pipe legend

Martin Pipe, the record-breaking trainer from Wellington, presents an ogle-like figure to his reeling and jealous rivals as he powers his way relentlessly forward to an almost certain century of winners by early January, a feat never previously accomplished.



Action man: Martin Pipe hands out instructions on a portable telephone as he returns from the gallops by trusty bicycle

"I've never approached anyone else's owners in my life," he said. "All the horses I train have been offered to me. This talk is very upsetting and disappointing. And I certainly wouldn't train horses for nothing as reported. It costs far too much money."

Farm, Nicholasshayne, illustrates the mere 15-year life of Pipe's headquarters. Similarly the MCPI number plate on the "Roller" peeping out of the garage, give evidence of a surge of recent prosperity, as does the helicopter waiting to take the trainer north and east for further plunder.

The winner-producing factory is based on 300 acres of clay. "It was practically derelict when we bought it," says Dave Pipe, the trainer's father. "Where these offices are now was a little cottage."

him about a horse's injury, he wants to be able to visualize what it looks like inside the limb in his mind's eye," says Barnes.

Pipe's 92 winners have been gained at a strike rate of 41 per cent. And a level £1 stake on all 22 runners would have yielded a profit of £33.24.

It takes. He could have turned his hand to anything. If he trained the England football team, they'd win the World Cup.

The partnership with that equally manic perfectionist, Scudamore, has been an inspiration to both men.

Chance of Scudamore switch

By Michael Seely Cup winner, who is set to carry top weight of 11st 10lb. Yesterday, Arthur Stephenson, the Thinker's trainer, was playing cat and mouse with his rivals. "We want to run, but we're not going to make up our minds until we have to," said Clive Merrigan, the trainer's secretary.

their favourite at 7-2. They then ran 4-1. The Thinker, 10-1 Cool Sun and Torside, and offer 12-1 against Run And Skip, the 1985 winner, and Cuddy Dale.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Kempton Park, Wetherby, Wincanton, Huntingdon, Wolverhampton, Newbury, Abingdon, Market Rasen, Sandown, Redeford.

Warming to the mud-caked revelry

A series of weekly reports on Britain's racesources No 17: WINCANTON Wincanton is without doubt the most illustrious track in the West Country, but for sheer mud-caked enjoyment it takes a lot of beating.



Since 1966, Wincanton has belonged to Racecourse Holdings Trust, i.e. the Jockey Club. The manager and clerk of the course is Ian Renzo, who at 36 is the youngest racecourse manager in the country.

west be attacked and which can be treated with disdain. In October, he barely rose at the second of the three fences in the second round of the chase and he was sent to the hospital.

Wincanton takes place on Thursdays. The overall standard is high, with all the top southern stables frequently represented.

Desert Orchid is due to run at Kempton on Boxing Day and there will be standing-room only in the Stallage Bar when he comes under orders on the closed-circuit television.

WINCANTON

Going: good to firm

- 12.45 FATHER CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O fillies: £1, 12s; 2m) (15 runners) 1 121 LAY MAS 12 (D.J.S.) M Pipe 11-2...

HUNTINGDON

Going: good to soft

- 12.30 ST IVO NOVICES HURDLE (E75s; 2m 4f) (16 runners) 1 640 BROADWOOD 22 M Storer 5-11-0...

SEDGEFIELD

Going: good

- 12.45 HARDWICK SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (E55s; 2m 4f) (14 runners) 1 420 CHALLENGER 14 (D.J.) G Jones 9-11-0...

WOLVERHAMPTON

Going: good

- 1.0 NETHERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,41s; 2m) (19 runners) 1 010 CHARLIE JACKSON 12 (D.J.S.) R Hindhead 11-10-0...

2.15 MID SEASON CHASE (E5, 117; 2m 5f) (4)

- 1 113 FARMER BOY 25 (D.J.S.) P O'Brien 9-11-0...

2.0 EBF CHATTERIS INTERMEDIATE CHASE (E1,570; 3m) (4)

- 1 441 GOLDEN FREEZE 23 (D.J.S.) Mrs J Pinner 6-10-0...

3.0 OUSE HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,476; 2m 100y) (17)

- 1 1402 ZAGAZZO 16 (D.J.S.) R Collingham 5-12-0...

2.30 OLDISBURY INTERMEDIATE HANDICAP CHASE (E2,022; 3m 1f) (5)

- 1 841 REMOXY THE MALDREY 25 (D.J.S.) M Robinson 7-10-0...

ALL THE DETAILS ROAD TRAVEL: The racecourse lies on the B3081, close to the A303 highway to the West Country...

Rating One jockey's cap denotes awful, two, bearable, three, average, four, very good, five, excellent.

3.30 WALSALL HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,402; 2m) (15) 1 151 SPANISH REEL 12 (D.J.S.) J Edwards 6-12-1...

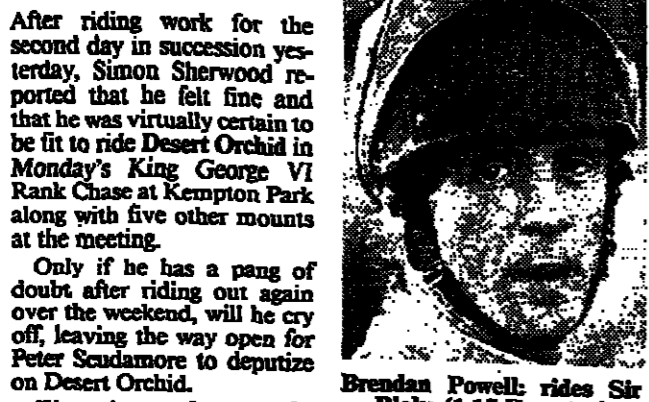
Large advertisement on the right side of the page for 'Desert Orchid' and 'Wethers'. It features a large image of a horse and rider, and text promoting the horse's performance and the quality of the wool.

Full cards... action. We appear...

The Times on Boxing Day presents an exclusive addition to its full guide to all eight meetings... A special Early Bird betting offer from William Hill. Extra-value prices for three races will be available only to readers of The Times on Boxing Day.

Desert Orchid can reign supreme

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)



After riding work for the second day in succession yesterday, Simon Sherwood reported that he felt sure that he was virtually certain to be fit to ride Desert Orchid in Monday's King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park along with five other mounts at the meeting.

Only if he has a pang of doubt after riding out again over the weekend, will he cry off, leaving the way open for Peter Scudamore to deputize on Desert Orchid.

Were that to happen, the champion jockey would be only the fourth man to ride the flying grey in a race, Colin Brown having partnered him in 44 of his 50 races so far.

Only when Brown retired in March was Sherwood given the chance, having already made the best of that unexpected opportunity two years ago when they won the Kempton Boxing Day spec-

years ago when they gave their rivals the slip, principally because no one thought they would get the trip. What everyone does know now is that Desert Orchid does stay three miles and more. So with the speed to match that stamina, he should be very hard to beat on Monday when I expect him to join the elite who have won the race twice.

Last time out, at Sandown, he looked in breathtaking form, unlike Charter Party and Kildimo, who both finished last on their latest outings.

As far as the Boxing Day banker is concerned, I am totally unrepentant in naming Sir Blake to beat Stalom. Alone Success, Bigsun and Vulgar Warrior in the Butlins Feltham Novices' Chase.

Much that I respect Stalom, it is pertinent to point out that Sir Blake did beat him by 3½ lengths on similar terms at Chepstow in February when they first clashed over hurdles.

Young Bear can begin his jumping career well by contesting the Christmas Novices' Hurdle, I am torn between Delius and Oregon Trail for the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase.

Delius fell at the last season while Oregon Trail, who is just preferred, looked to be crying out for this trip when he finished strongly to snatch third place in the A F Budge Gold Cup at Cheltenham on his seasonal debut.

With six victories to his credit on the course already Hypnotis (1.15) has become something of a standing dish at Wincanton.

Another likely winner at the popular Somerset track is Lily Mab (12.45), who could easily be one of five winners on the day for Martin Pipe.

The other four may come at Newton Abbot where Skyfairs Lead (12.45), Sabina De Laiz (1.15), Might Move (2.15) and Starwood (3.15) are all fancied to oblige.

KEMPTON PARK

Selections By Mandarin: 12.45 Cruising Alforde, 1.15 SIR BLAKE (nap), 1.45 Olympic Times.

By Michael Seely: 1.15 Sir Blake, 2.20 Desert Orchid.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.20 DESERT ORCHID.

Going: good

12.45 HAVEN NOVICES HURDLE (Listed race: £4,012: 2m) (12 runners)

- 101 3P-411 ANOTHER CORAL 34 (D.G.S.) (M Dewley) D Nicholson 5-11-7... R Danwoody 52
102 6052-1 BRANDON PIER 9 (P) (G Greenwood) D Elsworth 5-11-7... S Sheppard 54
103 65-4 CRIBBERN ALLIANCE 2 (M) (G Jones) D Elsworth 5-11-7... S Sheppard 54

FORM ANOTHER CORAL got up in the closing stages when leading Blue Bourbon a head at Bangor (2m, soft) last time.

1.15 BUTLINS FELTHAM NOVICES CHASE (Feature race: £10,272: 3m) (5 runners)

- 201 1452-11 SALOM 18 (D.S.) (M Rouse) M Robinson 7-11-7... H Davies 54
202 3P-1125 ALONE SUCCESS 7 (D.S.) (S Hamilton) M Henderson 5-11-4... J White 52
203 1145-11 BOB BLAKE 32 (D.S.) (M Rouse) M Robinson 7-11-7... H Davies 54

FORM SALOM, is an improving young chaser, was pushed out to beat Nos Casade in the first round of the Goodwood Chase at Sandown (2m, soft) last time.

1.45 ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,882: 2m) (14 runners)

- 301 495-330 HIBBERD 25 (D.S.) (J Short) R Alborough 7-11-7... I Sheppard 52
302 8005-10 HEART OF STONE 25 (D.S.) (M J Meyrick) R Alborough 5-11-13... I Sheppard 52
303 4180-12 FLEET COMMANDER 18 (D.S.) (M) (M) Maceo O Shavrood 5-11-10... S Sheppard 52

FORM FLEET COMMANDER was 12th in the closing stages when leading Blue Bourbon a head at Bangor (2m, soft) last time.

WETHERBY

Selections By Mandarin: 1.00 Young Benz, 1.30 Raise An Argument, 2.00 Castlevennon.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.00 SWARDEAN (nap).

Guide to our in-line racebook

1 151341 GOOD TIMES 13 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

Racelap number. Six-figure form (F - fell, distance winner, BF - beaten favourite in F - pulled up, U - unseated rider, B - brought down, S - slipped up, R - rider, D - disqualified, H - horse's name, Days - since last outing; F - fall, B - bit, D - broke, plus any allowance. The Times Private V - vob, H - hood, E - eyes, CD - course and winner, D - distance winner, CD - course and winner.

Going: good

1.0 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,325: 2m) (13 runners)

- 1 315 GALLOWAY RIDER 18 (D.S.) (J) (D) Benz 5-11-7... P Wilson 52
2 315 APFONIC SPRIT 30 (D) (J) (M) Wetherby 7-11-10... P Wilson 52
3 1000-72 BIRCH BRASS 18 (D.S.) (M) (M) Maceo O Shavrood 5-11-10... S Sheppard 52

1.30 TOWTON HANDICAP CHASE (£5,162: 2m 4f 100y) (5 runners)

- 1 1119-12 RAISE AN ARGUMENT 37 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
2 3P-342 JOINT SOVEREIGNTY 37 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
3 122-116 STAY ON TRACKS 18 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

THE TIMES RACING SERVICE

Live commentary and classified results Call 0898 500 123 Mandarin's Form Guide and rapid results Call 0898 100 123

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Championship race: £37,280: 3m) (6 runners)

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Championship race: £37,280: 3m) (6 runners)

2.50 NOVAR WAYWARD LAD NOVICES CHASE (Listed race: £5,921: 2m) (11 runners)

- 501 2P-2522 CORN MERCHANT 57 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
502 4-11723 HOGANWAY 9 (P) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
503 2423-4 KYRANAGE 9 (P) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

FORM CORN MERCHANT, winner of a Novice Chase at Doncaster (2m, soft) last time.

3.20 SOUTHCOAST WORLD HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,622: 3m) (10 runners)

- 601 025-230 HIBBERD 25 (D.S.) (J) (D) Benz 5-11-7... P Wilson 52
602 025-430 HIBBERD 25 (D.S.) (J) (D) Benz 5-11-7... P Wilson 52
603 025-430 HIBBERD 25 (D.S.) (J) (D) Benz 5-11-7... P Wilson 52

FORM HIBBERD was 12th in the closing stages when leading Blue Bourbon a head at Bangor (2m, soft) last time.

FORM LYNETTA, not the most reliable of performers, but put his best foot forward when leading Blue Bourbon a head at Bangor (2m, soft) last time.

3.50 CHESTER BROKER (Listed race: £5,026: 3m 100y) (7 runners)

- 701 0-21153 GREEN GORSE 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
702 0-21153 GREEN GORSE 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
703 0-21153 GREEN GORSE 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

FORM LYNETTA, not the most reliable of performers, but put his best foot forward when leading Blue Bourbon a head at Bangor (2m, soft) last time.

4.00 CHESTER BROKER (Listed race: £5,026: 3m 100y) (7 runners)

- 801 0-21153 GREEN GORSE 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
802 0-21153 GREEN GORSE 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
803 0-21153 GREEN GORSE 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

4.30 SUNNYSIDE HANDICAP HURDLE (Listed race: £3,026: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

- 901 43-2341 CHRISTMAS HOLLY 15 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
902 43-2341 CHRISTMAS HOLLY 15 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
903 43-2341 CHRISTMAS HOLLY 15 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

FORM CHRISTMAS HOLLY was 12th in the closing stages when leading Blue Bourbon a head at Bangor (2m, soft) last time.

4.50 CHESTER BROKER (Listed race: £5,026: 3m 100y) (7 runners)

- 1001 0-21153 GREEN GORSE 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
1002 0-21153 GREEN GORSE 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
1003 0-21153 GREEN GORSE 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

5.00 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £10,820: 3m 100y) (9 runners)

- 1101 111-4 DELIUS 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
1102 111-4 DELIUS 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
1103 111-4 DELIUS 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

5.30 BOXING DAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (Listed race: £1,044: 2m) (17 runners)

- 1201 0002-9 BELT THURSDAY 44 (D) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
1202 1200-12 BUCK TREAD 13 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
1203 005-3 GENERAL TRICKER 25 (M) (J) (D) Benz 5-11-7... P Wilson 52

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table with columns: TRAINERS (J Edwards, M Deacon, Jumpy Fitzgerald, M H Eddy, W Stephenson, M W Easterby), Runners, Per cent, JOCKEYS (M Hester, L Wye, R Wiggins, S Stammers, L Wye, M Weather), Races, Per cent.

BOXING DAY'S BIG-RACE FIELD C4

Going: good

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Championship race: £37,280: 3m) (6 runners)

- 401 2122-F1 BOB TISDALL 16 (D.G.S.) (K A Said) J Edwards 9-11-10... T Morgan 65
402 1112-24 CAUVIES CLOWN 30 (D.F., G.S.) (Mrs J O'Flann) D Elsworth 6-11-10... R Arnott 86
403 F/211-5 CHARTER PARTY 23 (D.F., G.S.) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 10-11-10... R Dunwoody 92

BETTING: 4-9 Desert Orchid, 7-1 Charter Party, 8-1 Caviies Clown, 9-1 Kildimo, 20-1 Bob Tisdall, VodkaKini.

BOB TISDALL

Dec 10, Lingfield, good: (11-10) best Smart Tier (11-9) by 110 (Sm, £10,197, 10 m).

CAUVIES CLOWN

Nov 23, Haydock, good to soft: (10-11) fell 12th when 2nd in race won by Emsu Rafter (11-9) (Sm Lstsd, £5,056, 8 m).

DESSERT ORCHID

Dec 3, Sandown, good: (12-0) best Jim Thorpe (10-8) 7th when VODKATINI refused to race (2m) 18yd Lstsd, £2,613, 5 m).

VODKATINI

Dec 10, Cheltenham, good: (11-10) best Harley Street Man (10-9) by 131 (2m, £4,347, 6 m).

CHARTER PARTY

Dec 5, Cheltenham, good: (10-9) 27th 8th to the Plus (10-12) (Sm, Lstsd, £2,347, 6 m).

MARKET RASEN

- 12.45 RIBBY SELLING HURDLE (£970: 2m) (22 runners)
1 0090 COLD LARSEN 37 J Herts 4-11-5... J White 57
2 0090 COLD LARSEN 37 J Herts 4-11-5... J White 57

NEWTON ABBOT

Going: good

12.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (£2,530: 2m 150y) (16 runners)

- 1 111-4 DELIUS 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
2 111-4 DELIUS 25 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

1.45 CHRISTMAS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (Listed race: £1,044: 2m) (15 runners)

- 1 2006 COMTE PRINCE 4 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
2 04-0 GOLDEN BOY 18 (D.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

1.50 HIGHER HUNTER NOVICES HURDLE (Listed race: £2,337: 2m 5f 110y) (16 runners)

- 1 1115 BROADWAY 28 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
2 1115 BROADWAY 28 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

2.45 LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL CHASE (Listed race: £3,948: 3m 2f 0y) (14 runners)

- 1 1115 BROADWAY 28 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52
2 1115 BROADWAY 28 (D.F., G.S.) (M) (D) Robinson 6 Hill 12-0... B West (7) 52

THE TIMES

Open a William Hill credit account now with this exclusive offer to readers of The Times

Advertisement for William Hill, featuring text about opening a credit account, a free pair of binoculars, and a lifetime guarantee. Includes contact information for William Hill, Freeport, Leeds LS2 8XS.

SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

Alletson's day in the sun

Nothing like it had ever been seen or would be seen again. This obscure bottom-of-the-order batsman became the most notorious athlete in England. For a brief spell he was what he had always wanted to be, a great cricketer.

No account of the evolution of cricket would be complete without acknowledging the fact that sometimes a cricketer may strive all his playing days for just one moment of true glory...

These death notices reminded readers of the one day in the old man's life when for an hour or two he took on the lineaments of a superhero...

On the morning of May 20, 1911, a young man hobbled over the shingle on Hove beach and strode into the surf. The sea front was almost deserted.

The young man was a perfect physical specimen, just over six feet tall, broad-shouldered and deep-chested, and although in the peak of condition, weighing over 15 stone.

Alletson was a professional cricketer, a nonentity in a sport enjoying a golden age crammed with dazzling figures who would hardly have spared Alletson a thought.

Compared to these men, Alletson was a bit player, a tail-end batsman who drifted in and out of the Notts county side in the years between his debut in 1906 and his retirement eight years later.

Alletson was not the first young man, nor would he be the last, to dream of that succulent slice of cricketing pie in the sky, the fast leg-break, a ball which would turn from leg with the venom of wrist-

Cricket Match. Played at the Hove Ground Brighton Date May 19. 1911. Nottinghamshire versus Sussex. Second INNING OF Nottinghamshire. Table with columns for batsman, runs, and bowler.

spin and yet at a fast-medium pace. But, because the leg-break has to be delivered out of the back of the hand, real pace is almost impossible to achieve.

Notice it was as a bowler that Alletson aspired to power, not as a batsman, which makes his story doubly remarkable. Reports of the period describe his batting as 'orthodox', in the sense that he could play a straight bat in defence.

Three days before his dip in the sea, the Notts side had arrived at Hove for the annual championship match with Sussex. Doubts about fitness had complicated the process of team selection.

Notts, a powerful side, champions in 1907 and boasting at least four England batsmen, won the toss on a genial wicket and started well. Then the Sussex bowler, Killick, took five wickets for 14 runs and Notts were all out for 238.



Joining the greats: Alletson (right) had neither the classicism of Hobbs nor the greatness of Barnes but, for a day, was the king of cricket

ground on May 20, and no further mention of the match appeared in its columns. The only Press representatives to witness the closing formalities were from The Sussex Daily News, The Nottinghamshire Guardian, Cricket and, of course, the inevitable man from Wisden.

On that last morning Alletson was still troubled by his injured wrist, and thought that perhaps contact with sea water might ease the sprain. But he was careful not to prolong his swim.

In the Notts dressing-room the mood was one of cheerful acceptance of defeat. Nothing short of a thunderstorm could save them now, and already the sun was out and the weather steadily improving.



David Frith Collection

career, by which time the proceedings on the field no longer resembled a cricket match at all. Play was repeatedly brought to a halt because there was no ball for the players to play with.

Neither were the fielders much inclined to lend a hand. John Gunn's brother, George, himself a batsman of wayward genius, remembered calling out to Vine, the Sussex deep fielder.

By 2.55 Alletson had amassed 189 runs and there seemed to be no known way of getting him out. A Notts rout had been transformed into a Sussex massacre.

In 90 minutes Alletson had scored 189, the last 142 of them in only 40 minutes. Nothing like it had ever been seen or would be seen again.

The facts are rather less dramatic. In his very next innings Alletson again smashed the ball all over the place, scoring 60 in half an hour against Gloucestershire.

There are many possible explanations for his return to mediocrity, and the most persuasive is that he was still preoccupied with his potential as the bowler of the elusive fast leg-break.

Rumours began to circulate that his bowling action was not within the letter of the law. He bowled no more that season.

In 1914, against Derbyshire, his captain asked him to bowl again, and once more he was taken off because of the alleged illegality of his action.

What happened to Edwin Bosler Alletson over lunch in the Hove pavilion on May 20, 1911? Probably nothing at all, but it is irresistibly tempting to speculate whether someone slipped a double brandy into his glass of ale.

It is an odd and endearing fact about human nature in its relation to cricket that, as Nyren and Cardus well knew, the backward look is always with us.

WHY... day... This is an extract from A History of Cricket by Benny Green (published by Barrie and Jenkins, £15.95).

Exciting day out for sports crossword winners

Test your knowledge of sport - and win a day out, accompanied by a guest, at your favourite sports event. The Times today presents its Jumbo Sports Christmas Crossword, with prizes by Whitbread White Label Bitter.



Complete the clues and choose from a day out at the Wimbledon tennis championships, a Test match between England and Australia or the start of the Whitbread round the world yacht race.

Runners-up videos

Gold medal success stories from the 1988 Olympic Games: Florence Griffith-Joyner, Adrian Moorhouse, Naim Saleymangin, Steffi Graf, the British men's hockey team.



competing in 23 sports for 237 gold medals in the summer Olympics. Lasting 60 minutes, it also includes the spectacular opening ceremony and the controversial Ben Johnson drug-taking incident.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-85 and a 'Name' field at the bottom.

Pappin's holiday may be longer than he expected

Veryan Pappin, the goalkeeper for Hounslow, Scotland and Great Britain, will be spending the short winter break from hockey in Devon where he was born and raised, appreciating to some extent his enforced period of inactivity.

Taylor's essential goals for success

Ian Taylor, who has just terminated a distinguished career as a goalkeeper by winning an Olympic gold medal, has a final word of advice for those wishing to improve their game - keep practicing.

"Golden Moments" captures all the memorable performances of 160 nations

- ACROSS 1 Racetrack livens store (11). 8 He is full of intent down under on the wing (7). 12 Hearts and Hibs are at home here (9).

- 30 Harris, Greenwood and Atkinson in full (6). 31 A footballer will try to do this cleanly at the back of the defence (5).

- 57 A mate could be a member of one (4). 59 A star man of the grand prix track (7).

- 80 He had his golden moments over two laps in Moscow (5). 81 Initially, they run greyhound racing (3).

- 9 Sir Gordon's only Derby winner (5). 10 A jumping backmarker (5,7).

- 51 Forwards like to see them bulge (4,4). 52 Bullet in a mob for a former England rugby captain (4,8).

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Table of weekend fixtures for various sports including Football, Rugby, and Hockey.

BOXING DAY FIXTURES

Table of Boxing Day fixtures for various sports including Football, Rugby, and Hockey.

SPORT ON TV

Table of sports events on television including Golf, Hockey, and Rugby.

CYCLING

Curran chases ninth win in ten years. Paul Curran, the Commonwealth Games double road champion, has his last race tomorrow as an amateur.



Peter Ball recalls who said what in the world of sport in 1988

The gold medal — it's something they can't take away from you

— Ben Johnson after being asked before the Olympic Games in Seoul whether he would prefer the gold medal or the world record

In sport, it would be nice if we could recover our reputation and in soccer once again become the gentleman of Europe. Mrs Thatcher's New Year message.

I can imagine the likes of Real Madrid and Juventus coming down to Plough Lane to play us. I don't think that they would like it too much. Brian Jones looking forward to Wimbledon's prospects of qualifying for Europe last January.

Ardiles was the difference — it was like trying to tackle dust. Joe Royle after Oldham's 4-2 third-round FA Cup defeat by Tottenham.

Sometimes you have to stamp your authority on a game, but I want a bit too far. Andy Stewart, the referee banned for swearing at a schoolboy player.

I never intended selling my soul to the devil. Elton John deciding not to sell Watford.

The only people who are going to get caught are the stupid ones, or the ones who don't matter. Daley Thompson on the Amateur Athletic Association's inquiry into drug taking.

I don't believe there was only one athlete on drugs at the World Championships in Rome. Carl Lewis, the American sprinter.

I saw Carl straight after his 100 metres defeat against Ben Johnson in the World Championships and he was at one of the lowest points of his career. At times like that, if you are not careful, you can let your imagination run away with you. Brendan Foster dismissing Lewis's allegations.

It is the fetishism of the second best which prevails in France. If you go down the Loire Valley you see all those grand castles. They look impressive from the outside with their spectacular walls and fortifications. But they are empty inside. There is nothing behind those impressive facades. This was the story of French rugby: plenty of flourishes, but we kept losing, it was a sham. Jacques Fouroux, the French coach, before France v England in Paris.



While the name Manchester United has its advantages, the association with football connects basketball with violence and thuggery. Richard Kay, one of consortium taking over the Manchester basketball club when United pulled out.

Have you seen the pitch? It is like the moon's surface. Jackie Hendrick, the West Indies manager, after his side reached 147 for 5 in the fourth Test in Madras.

The wicket was helpful, but I had to bowl and plan. Narendra Hirwani, Indian leg-spinner, after taking a Test debut record 16 for 136 in Madras.

Both team manager Micky Stewart and Mike Gatting have given us assurances this week that dissent will not occur again. Players cannot behave as they did in Pakistan even if the provocation was immense. Raman Subba Row, TCCB chairman, before the tour of New Zealand.

The Pakistan tour is finished and we want it dead and buried. Peter Lask, the England tour manager, on arrival in New Zealand.

Pakistan have been cheating us for 37 years. And by it, I mean other countries as well as England. Mike Gatting, then England captain, in Australia two weeks later.

Now we know how Gatting felt. Anonymous England rugby player after England's disallowed try during the 10-9 defeat by France in Paris.

A vulgar display of power and wealth in places where men continue to die of hunger and thirst. L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican official newspaper, in the Paris-Dakar rally.

You can't make deals with such people. Martina Navratilova, the tennis player, complaining about the organizers of the Australian Open allowing Aboriginal protesters to make their point inside the stadium.

The New Zealand government cannot stop her coming, but she is not going to be welcome. Her home is South Africa, white South Africans regard her as one of their own. Peter Tapsett, the New Zealand Minister for Sport, who began the latest round of controversy over Zola Budd after her selection for the British team in the world cross-country championships in Auckland.

She has abused her flag of convenience by not living here. She has taken us all for a ride. Ron Pickering, the television commentator, on Budd. I hope everybody now will accept that I have completely cut my ties with South Africa. I am proud to be a Briton and will do my utmost for Britain. Budd in February.

I've got six CSEs, and this has to be a better opportunity than hoping for a job with the water authority. Martin Charteris, aged 16, waiting to hear if he had been accepted on the first YTS cricketer programme.

I know I'm better than most of the people I play in Ramsagate, but I didn't realize I was world class. Richard Bean, video shop owner, on winning the world poker championship.

Hey, I earned \$3 million tonight. That's what I fight for. I'm a professional. If they'd said "do it for free" I wouldn't have shown up. Larry Holmes after his defeat by heavyweight champion Mike Tyson.

I'd kick my own brother if necessary. That's what being a professional is all about. Steve McMahon, the Liverpool and England midfielder.

They were like West Ham used to be — all fancy flicks and sweet sherry. Phil Sproun, a Port Vale defender, after their fourth-round FA Cup defeat of Tottenham.

We don't have to believe the Welsh myth that just because players pull on a red shirt they become different animals imbued with magical powers. Geoff Cooke, the England rugby manager, before England played Wales at Twickenham. Wales won.

I hope my successor gets more help from the secretary than I did. Miles England, the Wales football manager, after being dismissed.

I am boiling about what happened today and I'm going home to think about my next move. I'm going to sleep on it. And if I wake up in the morning still thinking of quitting, I'll sleep on it again. And if the feeling remains — then I'll be off. No mucking about. Brian Clough after the Nottingham Forest directors refused him permission to accept the job as part-time manager of Wales.

I am going nowhere. Resignations are for prime ministers and cabinets, and those caught with their trousers down, not for me. Clough two days later.

I'm not one of nature's headbangers. I find I don't need all that macho mayhem before a game. Deano Richards, the England No. 8, on his pre-match preparations.

They came to do a job, but at what cost to rugby? I just don't know. They played to slow the game down by whatever means possible. You can call it gamesmanship — I think the fashionable word is streetwise. Derrick Grant, the Scotland rugby coach, after England's 9-6 Calcutta Cup victory at Murrayfield.

Anyone connected with the game at whatever level can think back to times in their playing career when the property belonging to others was abused, broken or stolen. David Hanks, The Times rugby correspondent, on the suspension of Richards and the Scottish flanker, John Jeffrey, after £1,000 of damage was done to the Calcutta Cup after the post-match dinner.

I'm still too upset to think much about what I'm going to do, but I may take up karate. Trevor Harris, the Exeter RFC tighthead prop, on his suspension for 13 months after being sent off for the fifth time. In my country you get 10 to 15 years for what they were doing in there. It's called mugging. Jody Gardner, Livingston's American basketball coach, after heated match with Kingston.

"I've seen a goal scored against Liverpool." "I've seen Liverpool beaten." Liverpool supporters' lapel badges during the club's record 29-game unbeaten start to last season.

The people who come to watch us play, who love the team and regard it as part of their lives, would never appreciate Liverpool having a huge balance in the bank. They want every asset we possess to be wearing a red shirt, and that's what I want, too. Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager.



New challenge: Eddie Edwards (front) gets into training for the Goofy Games, a charity event at Disney World in Florida

Everyone back home thinks I'm crazy. They are probably right. Eddie Edwards, British ski jumper, at the Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Eddie doesn't fly. He just drops out of the sky. It's not ski jumping.

What's so great about winning in Glasgow or Cannes? The hotels are inferior and the courses not so good. Larry Nelson, the former US Open champion, getting defensive about European golf success.

A superstar? What's that? I still wash the dishes and drive my own car. I am a popular player, but people like Greg Norman and Seve Ballesteros are regarded as superstars.

They are Hollywood. The nearest I'll get to flying a jet is a remote controlled one. Sandy Lyle after winning the US Masters.

Eyes to the front, shut up, or you will be next. Ian Botham to a passenger protesting about his assault of Adrian Winter on a flight from Perth for which he was fined £320.

He just happened to be on the wrong plane at the wrong time. Botham on Winter.

It wasn't political pressure or the media criticism that made me leave England. I longed for Sunday lunch at home with the family. I even longed for my favourite food, pumpkin. Zola Budd on leaving Britain in May.

She has been such a nuisance, but I think we have now seen the back of her. Sam Ramsamy, of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, welcoming Budd's departure.

I didn't even know it existed. I just kept going. Graeme Hick after scoring 405 not out for Worcestershire against Somerset, 19 runs short of A.C. MacLaren's highest first-class score in England.

England have their best chance for 10 years to beat the West Indies this summer. Clive Lloyd before the Test series.

We have not seen a match-winning performance from a bowler in Test cricket for far too long. We seem unable to bowl sides out twice — hence, we have not won many matches. Peter May analysing the situation at the start of the season.

Allblon is one of the few clubs in this country that I would want to manage. Ron Atkinson, then West Bromwich Albion manager, in January, on being given a two-year contract after a run of four defeats. He left in October to manage Atletico Madrid.

I'm going nowhere unless City want to sell me. My heart is in this club. Paul Stewart, then of Manchester City, in February.

Stewart joined Tottenham Hotspur in the summer.

He won't be leaving his place until an hour after his contract is up. Willie McFaul then Newcastle manager, on Paul Gascoigne, in February. Gascoigne's contract was due to expire in June next year. He joined Spurs in the close season.

because he is such a spectacular loser. If he had come second to last, no one would be interested. Julian Brand, of the sports marketing agency, IMG, explaining Edwards's great earning potential.

We are all on trial, including the selectors. May explaining why Gatting had only been appointed for the first two Tests.

People should ask where were the wonder boys of Liverpool? Why didn't they turn it on when things started to go against them. But then they have never played well against us. They are good, but not that good. Lawrie Sanchez, Wimbledon's goalkeeper.

My love for the sport is still as strong as ever. Grand Prix driving is like making love. When you've tried it once, you always want more. Nigel Mansell at the start of the season.

I've never felt so bad in my life. I felt like dying because I had let so many people down — the people of Liverpool whom I love. John Aldridge after his first penalty miss of the season.

We are not panicking. There is a lot of cricket left on this tour. Ray Richards after the 3-0 defeat in the one-day international.

England silence their critics. The Times headline after the one-day victories.

It's not my idea of glasnost. Martina Navratilova after defeat by Natalia Zvereva, of the Soviet Union, in the French Open.

At the milepost I thought "I'm on the wrong one here". Ray Cockrane after his Derby win on Kahyasi.

England silence their critics. The Times headline after the one-day victories.

It's not my idea of glasnost. Martina Navratilova after defeat by Natalia Zvereva, of the Soviet Union, in the French Open.

At the milepost I thought "I'm on the wrong one here". Ray Cockrane after his Derby win on Kahyasi.

Stewart joined Tottenham Hotspur in the summer. He won't be leaving his place until an hour after his contract is up. Willie McFaul then Newcastle manager, on Paul Gascoigne, in February. Gascoigne's contract was due to expire in June next year. He joined Spurs in the close season.

because he is such a spectacular loser. If he had come second to last, no one would be interested. Julian Brand, of the sports marketing agency, IMG, explaining Edwards's great earning potential.

We are all on trial, including the selectors. May explaining why Gatting had only been appointed for the first two Tests.

People should ask where were the wonder boys of Liverpool? Why didn't they turn it on when things started to go against them. But then they have never played well against us. They are good, but not that good. Lawrie Sanchez, Wimbledon's goalkeeper.

My love for the sport is still as strong as ever. Grand Prix driving is like making love. When you've tried it once, you always want more. Nigel Mansell at the start of the season.

I've never felt so bad in my life. I felt like dying because I had let so many people down — the people of Liverpool whom I love. John Aldridge after his first penalty miss of the season.

We are not panicking. There is a lot of cricket left on this tour. Ray Richards after the 3-0 defeat in the one-day international.

England silence their critics. The Times headline after the one-day victories.

It's not my idea of glasnost. Martina Navratilova after defeat by Natalia Zvereva, of the Soviet Union, in the French Open.

At the milepost I thought "I'm on the wrong one here". Ray Cockrane after his Derby win on Kahyasi.

England silence their critics. The Times headline after the one-day victories.

It's not my idea of glasnost. Martina Navratilova after defeat by Natalia Zvereva, of the Soviet Union, in the French Open.

At the milepost I thought "I'm on the wrong one here". Ray Cockrane after his Derby win on Kahyasi.

Stewart joined Tottenham Hotspur in the summer. He won't be leaving his place until an hour after his contract is up. Willie McFaul then Newcastle manager, on Paul Gascoigne, in February. Gascoigne's contract was due to expire in June next year. He joined Spurs in the close season.

Charlie's been dropping sly innuendoes about Ben juicing up on steroids, and if it doesn't stop, there'll be a massive lawsuit. Ben Johnson's doctor, Mario Astophan, on Johnson's former coach, Charlie Francis, in June.

Test stars in sex orgy! The Sun front-page headline on June 8, at the end of the first Test, which broke the story leading to the sacking of Mike Gatting.

The selectors emphasized that they did not believe the allegations in the newspapers and accepted Gatting's account of what happened. The selectors were concerned, however, that Gatting behaved irresponsibly during a Test match by inviting female company to his room for a drink in the late evening. Selectors' statement removing Gatting from the England captaincy.

If they deny the allegations we will accept their word as well. We do not regard this as a whitewash. Micky Stewart, the England manager, announcing that the four other players suspected of involvement in the hotel frolics would be interviewed at Lord's. All denied involvement.

In the five nations, they are good, but on the world platform it's like the New Zealand soccer team taking on Brazil. Wayne Shelford on the Welsh team which lost 52-3 to New Zealand.

I was humiliated as England's captain. There was division between the backs and forwards who ended up blaming each other. But as a forward, I say there is no such thing as bad possession. All possession won is good ball. John Orwin, the England captain, on the unsuccessful rugby tour of Australia.

Smile sweetly as you grind them into the ground. Diane Bailey, the British and Irish Curtis Cup golf captain, to her team.

On days like this you get a definite impression that someone up there likes you. Jack Charlton, the Republic of Ireland manager, after his team's 1-0 victory over England in the European Championship.

I feel embarrassed simply because I am an Englishman — it's a terrible state of mind to be in. Our clubs haven't got the earliest chance of getting back into Europe next season. Bert Millichip, the FA Chairman, on the crowd disturbances during the European Championship.

I totally disagree with the pressure coming from home that what happened in the city on Tuesday night is a reason why I should withdraw the England team from this competition. We all deplore what has happened but it's totally beyond the power of the FA to control. Millichip after events in Düsseldorf.

England play the game like old-fashioned gentlemen. Why are you so far behind the rest? Igor Belanov after England's 3-1 defeat by the Soviet Union.

Going out after a week had had nothing to do with bad tactics, bad players or bad spirits — only bad finishing. Bobby Robson, the England manager.

I can remember some good Saturdays against the West Indies — the only trouble is that the Thursdays, Fridays, Mondays and Tuesdays were a bit of a disaster. John Embury after England enjoyed a successful first day at Lord's under his leadership.

I am shy and dull. I can go about unrecognized in London. I would rather be not known by anybody. It would spoil that if I won Wimbledon. Stefan Edberg before the final. He won.

Sod the little man. Sponsor's greed at Wimbledon, asked whether corporate hospitality disadvantaged the ordinary spectator.

Sponsors are sponsors and if they become too powerful we could finish up in a situation where the sponsors are making the decisions. Chris Peaker, the Lancashire CCC treasurer, advising members that paying a higher percentage of the county's costs would safeguard their positions.

When you come as a sponsor you are treated like royalty. I'd recommend it to anyone. When you come as a member on Test match Saturday you are shunted around as some species of sub-human. Douglas Lever, Lancashire member.

What hadn't been foreseen was that when we broke up the television cartel, any loser in that cartel would turn round and try to break up the League. Gordon Taylor, the secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association, on ITV's proposal to buy up rights to the "big 10" clubs.

Fixing pitches to suit the best bowlers of the home side seems to be the trend these days. I don't mind, but I hope nobody knocks us in the future when we prepare wickets for our guys. Vic Richards after the Old Trafford Test, which West Indies won.

We didn't want to go overboard although changes had to be made. Peter May bringing in England's third captain of the series, Chris Cowdrey, as one of six changes.

Programme, Overseas players and Wickets. POW. Peter May analysing England's problems.

I didn't know he was the England captain and he didn't tell me. I'm afraid I don't follow cricket, boxing is my game. Headingley Pitkin who refused Cowdrey's admission the day before the fourth Test.

He bowls too many wicket-taking balls. Micky Stewart on Phil DeFreitas.

It's a great honour but it will not make any difference about my decision not to be available to tour India this winter. Graham Gooch becoming England's fourth captain of the summer after Cowdrey's injury.

You can't go picking people on sentiment alone. Tony Ward, spokesman for the British Amateur Athletic Board, insisting that Seb Coe would have to qualify for the Olympics from the trials.

The days of dear old badminton getting half an hour from Basinstoke Town Hall are dead and gone. John Bramley, ITV head of sport, on the changes in television coverage being brought by satellite TV.

Why should I buy cricket? Nobody watches it anyway. Greg Dyke, chairman of ITV's sport committee.

That's life. That's cricket. Frank Brano after learning that his world title bout had been put off once again after Tyson's car crash.

It seems obvious they don't want to play in India. Margaret Alva, India's Minister for Sport, after England had persuaded Gooch to withdraw from his South African commitment and lead the touring party.



There is this caricature of rugby league players as thick, thuggish and morose. They are far from that. They are good company, intelligent and with a genuine interest in the game. Ian McCartney MP, forming an all-party rugby league group in the Commons.

Canadian weightlifters: three clean and four jerks. Dressing-room graffiti after four Canadians had been found guilty of drug-taking.

From hero to zero in 9.79 seconds. Canadian graffiti in athletes' village in Seoul after Ben Johnson's demise.

He's guilty because he's guilty. Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympics Committee, on Johnson.

In the first game she was giving me three points with this careless attitude that had "I can't win" written all over it. Then I remembered she was British. Wendy Turnbull, the Australian tennis player, on Clare Wood.

We talk of British character and fighting spirit and tend to think it's old hat. But that's what sets British kids apart from the rest of the world and Daley Thompson has just given one of the best examples imaginable. Frank Dick, the English athletics coach, on Thompson's performance in spite of injury.

We were never going to be allowed to win by fair means. The team have voted in favour of stopping the tour right now. Allan Border, the Australian captain, after the first Test in Pakistan.

I don't blame Gary Lineker for the defeat. Robson after the World Cup qualifying match with Sweden in October. The score was 0-0. Robson also referred to the opposition as Denmark.

Plonker. Headline in The Sun in response to Robson's confusion.

In the name of God go. Daily Mirror headline after the draw with Sweden.

For the love of Allah go. Daily Mirror headline after the 1-1 draw with Saudi Arabia in November.

I'm off to make some money. Phone me tomorrow. Eric Hall, John Fashanu's agent, leaving the FA hearing on Fashanu's fracas with Vic Anderson in the Wimbledon tunnel.

Illustrations by Ged Melting

RUGBY UNION

Richards is unfit so Grant gets chance against Barbarians

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Dean Richards, the England No. 8, will miss Leicester's annual match against the Barbarians on Wednesday. He decided on Thursday evening that it was not even worth giving his injured shoulder a fitness test and his withdrawal gives Grant, an unexpected opportunity against international opposition.

It will not be, however, against Moriarty: the Swansea and Wales back-row man has a broken nose and is out of the Barbarians XV, who are looking to Scotland for a replacement. Grant has deputised for Richards in Leicester's last four matches, in the continued absence of Povos, who faces an operation next month because of a long-standing ankle injury.

England's selectors will keep a weather eye on Richards's state of health; he is due to accompany the national squad to Portugal in just under a fortnight for a five-day training camp while Leicester would doubtless be happy to see him for their next league match, a difficult away encounter with Gloucester on January 14.

Another England player takes a rest after Christmas, by choice: Richard Harding.

who captained his country against Fiji in June, plays scrum half for Bristol at Llanelli today but will take a month off. "I've played more rugby this year than at any other time," Harding said. "It's left me stale and I'm no longer enjoying my game."

Harding, aged 35, has been playing first-class rugby for 15 years; he had to wait until 1985 before winning his first cap and has always acknowledged, somewhat wryly, that whatever else has come his way since then is a bonus to the solid enjoyment he derives from his club rugby with Bristol.

Few work harder than he does in training and, with Dunston and Smith returning more time, it is no wonder that he reaches the end of the most competitive year English rugby has yet known in need of a break.

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, then Chris Oti should receive a rousing welcome at Gloucester today. He makes only his third senior appearance of the season for Wasps against Rosslyn Park, hoping to convince himself as well as a multitude of interested parties that an injured knee can stand the strain after

12 weeks away because of ligament problems.

Since Wasps have rested most of their regular first XV, Park will certainly give Oti a stiff examination, faced as he is due to be by the powerful Hunter. By coincidence Young returns to the Wasps centre for his first game since being injured against Macclesfield in September, which hitherto was Oti's only senior club game to date this season.

It will be instructive, too, to see how a promising prop such as Dunston performs against the experienced Park front row, he is among those pressing for a place at the end of the season. In England's first under-21 side, as is the Bristol prop, Sharp, in the Scottish selectors have already taken an interest.

The club programme over Christmas is strongest in Wales and the North, although Boxing Day brings a number of traditional derby matches, among them that between Gloucester and Lydney; Hammarford, Gloucester's captain, and Tim Smith their leading points scorer, are away and their places at scrum half and full back go respectively to Gardner and Marment.

On Tuesday, Richmond entertain Harlequins with a side close to full strength; Harlequins, however, have a respectable team absent on holiday or injured and Mullins will lead a XV including the Thresher brothers at full back and lock, Eagle back on the wing and Thomas paired at centre with Handreke, the promising Durham University player.

All rugby enthusiasts will wish to offer sympathy to the family and friends of Clayton Fick, the captain and full back of the Warwickshire second division club, Coventrians, who died in the Pan Am aircraft disaster at Lockerbie on Wednesday.

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Cardiff v Bridgend
Evans, the Oxford Blue, partners Flung at centre for Cardiff, who will include Wiseman and Oxford prop, to their Boxing Day side against Pontypridd. Bridgend have the bulk of their international contingent available.

Llanelli v Bristol
Llanelli field a quartet of Welshes, including Jonathan at stand-off, but are without two regulars, Girdlestone and Price, who are injured by injury to play Jeffrey at full back, with Hull and Hodges on the wings.

Middlebrook v Gosforth
Middlebrook, despite a couple of injury queries, hope to be at strength against Gosforth, who have Clark (stand-off), Westgarth (lock) and Moffatt (prop) returning to the side.

Nottingham v Headingley
Nottingham have all but Harley of their divisional players available. Jenkins and Smith returning at Greenwood retains the No. 8 position. Huntman returns for Headingley, who have Joyce and Kannel on the wings.

Rosslyn Park v Wasps
Park field a strong side, with Williams and Smith returning at half back, against Wasps who won their league match 36-16. Wasps field Oti and Lovatt as a divisional replacement — at full back.

Sheffield v Waterloo
Angry, who has been playing for Plymouth, returns on holiday to the club to play for Waterloo. Keane is at scrum half but neither Murray, nor Crane, are available in the pack.

Glint back in eyes of Ringland

By George Ace

Trevor Ringland is back on the Ballymena right wing for the Jack Kyle Cup Match against Dunganstown at Eaton Park on Boxing Day, which is good news, not only for Ballymena but for Ireland.

Out of action with hamstring trouble in the left leg since playing for Ulster against Leinster in mid-November, Ringland was in optimistic mood yesterday.

"I have purposely not tried to rush things," he said. "Injuries are funny and rest is essential. My physical condition is good and the Kyle Cup is just the kind of game I need before the Combined Provinces match against Italy in Cork on January 4."

A lot of people wrote Ringland off as an international wing when he lost his place to Sexton for the millennium international against England last season.

Ringland refuses to be drawn on whether he may be holed. But the glint is back in the eye of the best right wing in Ireland when 100 per cent fit. He may not be far short of that fitness now and his performances over the next 10 days will be closely monitored.

Today's rugby is confined to a clash between former pupils of Royal Belfast Academical Institution (Rustonsians) and Methodist College (Collegians).

Edinburgh make two late changes

By Alan Lorimer

It may be Christmas Eve, but Scotland's leading rugby players will eschew the opportunity of scrumming among the last-minute shoppers in favour of the comparative peace of the playing field.

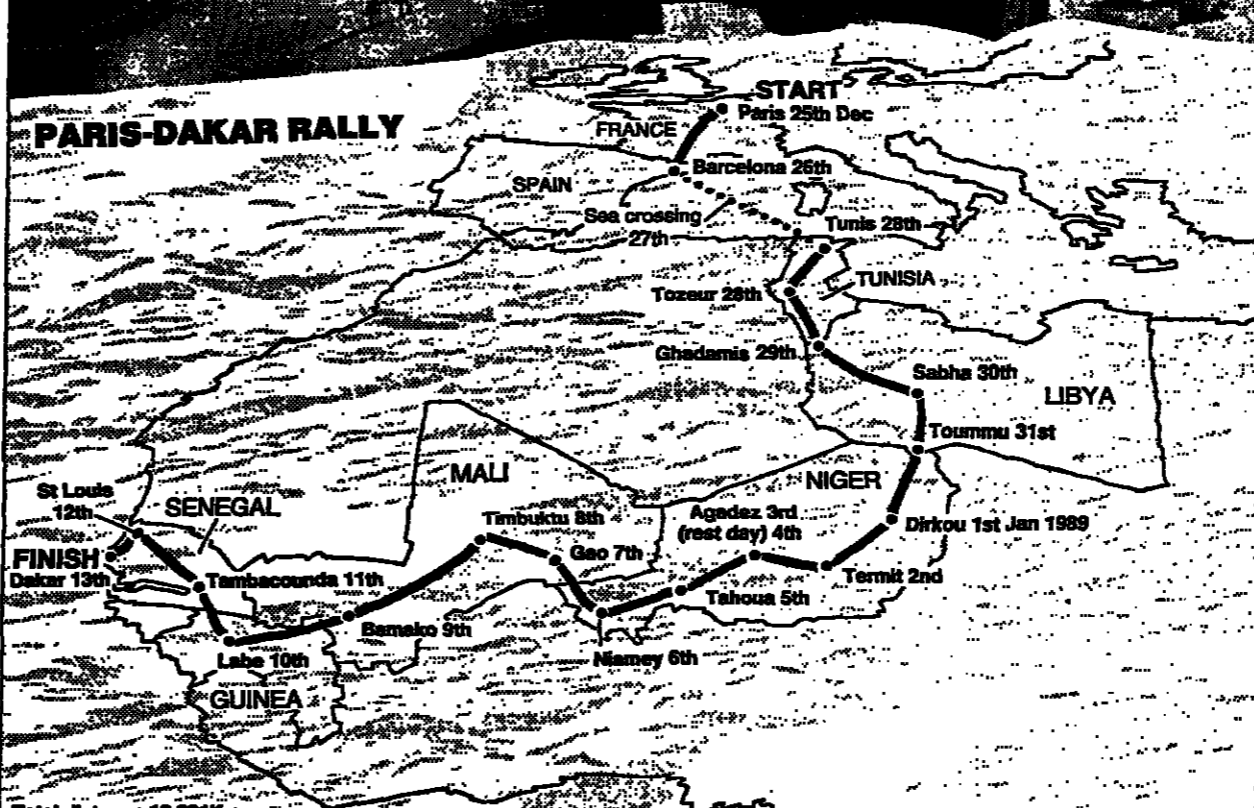
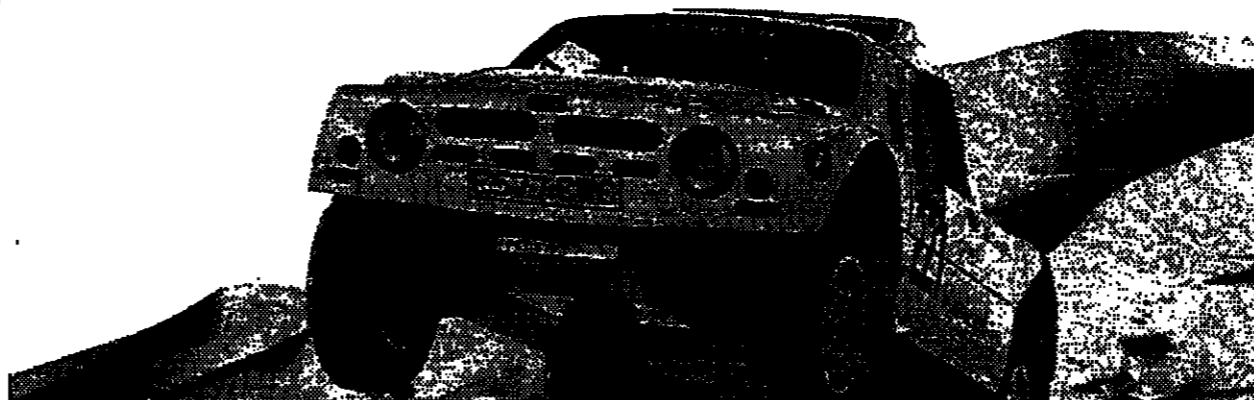
Edinburgh, the defending champions, face North and Midlothian in a McEwan's district match at Cupar which should provide the capital side with their third consecutive victory.

Edinburgh have been forced to make two late changes, at scrum half and at hooker, where Julian Scott (neck injury) and Ken Milne (groin strain) are replaced respectively by Martin Robertson (Boroughmuir) and Barrie Brown, of Edinburgh Academicals.

For the city side, Scott's withdrawal means a disruption of the Stewart-Melville half back partnership. After serving his seven-day suspension imposed by the Scottish Rugby Union, Scott Hastings renews his partnership at centre with the New Zealander, Sean Linnea. Linnea, of course, will be opposite his Boroughmuir centre partner, Brian Edwards, who scored a couple of tries against the Australians and who is a committed tactler. Against an Edinburgh side bristling with talent, however, North's Christmas stockings look destined to contain another wooden spoon.

At Old Anniesland, South, who have scored 63 points while

Safety-first start for the annual Paris-Dakar Rally



Amateurs and money-men with dreams of the desert

The Pope likened the 1988 Paris-Dakar Rally to "Barnum selling his circus to industry and commerce." Twelve months on, a revamped Paris-Dakar starts on Christmas Day — this time morally more self-conscious and reputedly safer.

Since the first Paris-Dakar was held in 1978, 26 competitors and spectators have perished, including six a year ago. The organizers were accused of bowing to the wishes of the multi-national sponsors and car manufacturers by making the event as punishing and spectacular as humanly possible for the benefit of the cameras.

A third of the field was forced out on the first day in the Algerian desert. The big-buck entries received the exposure they desired, but the amateurs who form the backbone of the Paris-Dakar were discarded in the process.

Now the organizers (under considerable pressure from the International Motorsport Federation, the public and the media) have promised to make the 18-day rally the most sporting yet. Regardless of safety or sportsmanship, until the 300th supercars from the stables of Peugeot, Mitsubishi and Range

entered the rally last year in an overweight Isuzu Trooper, but has learnt this year to lighten his load considerably if the car is to have any chance of even reaching Libya on Day Two in the desert.

By way of contrast, with a budget of \$4 million (about £2.2 million), it is hardly surprising that Peugeot, the former world rally champions, have won both "Dakars" they have entered. Driven by the best pilots, like Ari Vatanen and Jacky Ickx, pampered by some of the best rally mechanics and managed by Jean Todt, the Pioneer Peugeot 405s and 205s are sure to fill the leader board all the way through Tunisia, Libya, Niger, Mali and Guinea to Senegal.

The team even employs its own specialist doctor, Jean Duby, who saved Vatanen's life after a crash in Argentina in 1985 and is on call 24 hours a day during the Paris-Dakar.

On his comeback to rallying from his crash in Argentina, Vatanen won the 1987 Paris-Dakar in style and would have repeated the feat in 1988 if his Peugeot had not been stolen from a car park in Mali. Vatanen was excluded from the rally after the theft of his £200,000 car, which was later returned.

This will be Vatanen's third, and probably last, Paris-Dakar Rally. Peugeot will also treat the event as their swansong in major rallying before switching to the world sports-prototype championship.

For the first time, the rally will avoid Algeria, the scene of recent street fighting, and pass through Tunisia and Libya.

Vatanen's old friend and compatriot, Juha Kankkunen — who inherited first place from Vatanen after his disqualification in 1988 — will not defend his title, choosing to stay in Scandinavia for the Swedish Rally. Ignoring the unpredictable natural challenges of the desert and the light-fingeredness of spectators, Vatanen has little to worry about in terms of challenge for supremacy within the Peugeot team.

His team-mates, Guy Frequelin and Jacky Ickx, are as likely to snatch the lead from Vatanen as any Mitsubishi or Range Rover driver, but, with luck on his side, Vatanen and his navigator, Bruno Berglund, will be hard to beat.

When Vatanen won the Paris-Dakar in 1987, it was thanks to Andrew Cowan, the veteran rally driver from Scotland. Cowan, the senior driver in the Nikon Mitsubishi team, sent a message to one of the Fin's colleagues that Vatanen had run out of spare tyres and had picked up a puncture on the last day of the rally.

Vatanen is still indebted to Cowan and dedicated a chapter of his new book, *Every Second Counts*, to the Scot.

"Cowan's sporting spirit was really heartwarming," Vatanen wrote. "It is thanks to this sort of thing that the Paris-Dakar is such a unique adventure."

Cowan received a case of Mouton Rothschild from Jean Todt as a thank-you.

Cowan, aged 52, will head the Mitsubishi team again this year and has the best chance of a win of any British driver. The Berwickshire farmer, who coincidentally was Vatanen's team manager on the RAC Rally, has entered the past seven events — finishing as high as second in 1985.

Patrick Tamby, the former Grand Prix driver, who was third in the 1988 rally, has joined Mitsubishi in what is their most important motorsport public relations exercise of the year.

In spite of bad publicity from the six deaths in 1988, the rally still attracts sponsors and motor manufacturers like

Calls for a return to the race's amateur origins

bees to a honey-pot, Tamby says. "Also sponsors are afraid of bad publicity, the demand for exposure is so great that teams would even sell the space on the chair legs I am sitting on."

Not all sponsors are so convinced at the cost effectiveness of the world's harshest rally. Duncan Lee, the director of sponsorship and special events at RJ Reynolds Tobacco International — whose Camel brand sponsored teams in 1987 and 1988 — decided to pull out this time. "Basically the desert doesn't fit the Camel image and it costs over a million dollars to do the Paris-Dakar — it doesn't justify itself with the coverage basically limited to France and Spain," he says.

The organizers of the rally know that the event starting tomorrow is crucial to its future. There are enough chances for it to succeed, with a new route, major entries, a sponsor and a huge public. Improved safety and an attempt to slow down the cars through vulnerable villages will help to lower the risk of death on the rally, and with the return to less powerful vehicles in 1990 the rally will complete a 180-degree turn towards its origins as an amateur jant to Dakar.

"Unless the rally does change direction," Cowan warns, "the Paris-Dakar is on the slippery slope. The rally could go on forever — the local people and governments welcome us because there is a lot of money spent during the event — but at the moment it is a full-blooded competition. If it returns to being an adventure then that slippery slope might not happen."

Jeremy Hart

British enthusiasts are unlikely to taste victory

Rover are banned in 1990, the chances of a private entry crossing the finish line on Dakar beach in first place are remote.

For the likes of Ted Tolemann and Barry Lee in their T889 Enduro or Tom McGuigan in his Britland Team Range Rover, however wild their dreams of winning, success will be just completing the route — no mean task in itself.

The Tolemann team, entering their third Paris-Dakar, has yet to stay in the running past the first week and its efforts since 1987 have cost a million pounds.

In addition to Tolemann, the Britland team of Tom McGuigan and John Beard — a couple of off-road enthusiasts from south London — have entered two light-weight Range Rovers in the class for near-standard vehicles with "the intention of getting at least one of them to Dakar", according to McGuigan.

The time-consuming intensity of the team's two-year project, at a cost of over £40,000, has meant that McGuigan, a plumber from Sydenham, has not touched a piece of pipe since 1987. "Only 48 hours before the team was due to leave for Paris, their second vehicle was having the finishing touches put to it."

The third British entry in the rally is the Suffolk pair, Dick Partridge, a garage owner, and Andy Davey. Partridge

British enthusiasts are unlikely to taste victory

Rover are banned in 1990, the chances of a private entry crossing the finish line on Dakar beach in first place are remote.

For the likes of Ted Tolemann and Barry Lee in their T889 Enduro or Tom McGuigan in his Britland Team Range Rover, however wild their dreams of winning, success will be just completing the route — no mean task in itself.

The Tolemann team, entering their third Paris-Dakar, has yet to stay in the running past the first week and its efforts since 1987 have cost a million pounds.

In addition to Tolemann, the Britland team of Tom McGuigan and John Beard — a couple of off-road enthusiasts from south London — have entered two light-weight Range Rovers in the class for near-standard vehicles with "the intention of getting at least one of them to Dakar", according to McGuigan.

The time-consuming intensity of the team's two-year project, at a cost of over £40,000, has meant that McGuigan, a plumber from Sydenham, has not touched a piece of pipe since 1987. "Only 48 hours before the team was due to leave for Paris, their second vehicle was having the finishing touches put to it."

The third British entry in the rally is the Suffolk pair, Dick Partridge, a garage owner, and Andy Davey. Partridge

RUGBY LEAGUE

Castleford record is likely to survive

By Keith Macklin

Derby matches dominate a holiday fixture list which will enable rugby league players to share with their footballing counterparts the rare luxury of a week-end of and only one tough fixture over the Christmas period.

Boxing Day, as ever, brings a host of matches between local rivals, with a promise of keenly competitive games and bumper games. Yorkshire's matches in the first division have morning kick-offs, while the games west of the Pennines stick to the traditional afternoon starts.

The league leaders, Castleford, have a golden opportunity to maintain their unbeaten record and send their supporters home to a happy festive lunch. They encounter Hull Kingsdale Rovers, who are still struggling to put together both a settled side and a degree of form.

Two of the struggling sides in the division, Featherstone Rovers and Wakefield Trinity, meet at Post Office Road and little seasonal goodwill can be expected here, with both teams desperate for survival.

The other morning local derby is the West Riding battle between Leeds and Halifax at Headingley. Normally this would be a scrum contest but while Leeds are rising high, Halifax are having a disastrous season at the bottom of the table and there can surely be only one winner of this game.

On the Lancashire side the big game is the traditional one which annually packs Knowlsey Road — St Helens battling it out with their age-old rivals, Wigan.

Both sides have injury problems, with Fieldhouse from the Saints' injury list, but both have strength in depth and this has the making of another memorable encounter before a five-figure attendance.

Oldham, who are showing rapid signs of improvement following the arrival of Tony Barrow as coach, should beat Salford, who are beginning to stumble after their early promise.

At Widderspool, Warrington and Widnes renew traditional Christmas rivalries and it will be hoped that the battles do not extend to the terraces, as they have done during the last two meetings between the sides. Widnes are in third place and Warrington in the bottom half of the table, but in these sort of fixtures form counts for nothing and it would be no real surprise were Warrington to win.

There are more derby games in the second division, with the top club, Leigh, visiting Chorley Borough with every hope of recording another big victory. Barrow, who are second place, entertain Carlisle in a Cumbrian clash. Bramley, the most improved side in the division, must wait until Tuesday to play their home game with Huddersfield.

David Watkinson, the Hull Kingston Rovers' hooker and former Great Britain captain, is one of seven players suspended by the Rugby League disciplinary committee following recent dismissals. Watkinson, Paul Exner (Rumsdown) and Frank Cassidy (Swinton) have each been banned for three games. Two-match suspensions have been imposed on Alan Shillito (York), Gary Kendall (Barrow), Andy Darnatt (Hull) and Shaun Devine (St Helens).

FOOTBALL

Rough takes step down the division

Alan Rough, the former Scotland goalkeeper, has moved from Celtic for a nominal fee to be player-coach at Hamilton Academical, the bottom club in the premier division.

Another on the move is the Rochdale midfielder, Shaun Reid, who signed for York City yesterday. And the Chesterfield manager, Paul Hart, also completed a signing yesterday — recruiting Adrian Shaw, a midfield player with York.

Meanwhile, Port Vale, the third division promotion candidates, have signed Paul Millar, a forward, from Fleetwood Town.

SNOW CUP: Fourth round draw: Westwood v Sheffield Wednesday or Queens' Park Rangers; Walsall v Burton; Middleburgh or Coventry v Crewe; Palace of Light v Ipswich or Blackburn v Chelsea or Nottingham Forest (Fix to be posted during the week beginning January 9).

SNOW REPORTS

Area	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to report	Weather (Sun)	Temp (°C)		
AUSTRALIA							
Brand	110	120	good	heavy	good	fine	2
Plenty of snow and no queues							
Coorging	90	100	good	heavy	good	sun 1	
Good skiing, all pistes open							
Seelbach							
imerglemm	90	170	good	heavy	air	fair	1
Good skiing							
Schildfenn	10	150	good	varied	air	fine	3
Good skiing on higher slopes							
FRANCE							
Isola 2,000m	20	40	fair/very	worn	fine	6	
Spring conditions							
ignes	65	235	fair	heavy	air	sun-5	
Excellent skiing on upper slopes							
'al Therons	20	100	good	varied	air	sun 2	
Spring skiing conditions							
ITALY							
ervilla	20	150	fair	crust	poor	fine	6
High slopes remain good							
WITZERLAND							
rans Montana	85	80	fair	varied	air	fair 7	
Spring skiing conditions							
ans	60	130	good	varied	good	fine	1
Excellent skiing							
'ndward	50	120	good	varied	good	cloud	4
Good skiing on upper slopes							
sa les	20	130	good	heavy	cloud	fair 2	
Good glacier skiing, windy							
rber	15	150	fair	varied	poor	fair 2	
Good skiing on glacier							
mpert	50	100	good	heavy	air	cloud 5	
Wonderful skiing							
mmatt	50	85	good	varied	air	fine	0
Plenty to enjoy all round							

the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, relate to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

YACHTING

Favourite set for treble in 630-mile race

Sydney (Reuter) — The giant Australian yacht, the Windward Passage II, tries for the honours, first on corrected time and breaking the race record in the Sydney-to-Hobart race, which starts on Boxing Day.

Its owner and skipper, Rod Muir, a Sydney businessman, has spent US\$2.5 million on the 24.3-metre yacht whose performance since its launch in May have made it odds-on favourite. Windward Passage II beat the world's best mizzen in the Kenwood Cup off Hawaii in August and this week became the first yacht to win all three races in the Ocean Racing Championships off Sydney. On a line honours and corrected time, Muir, beaten by only 21 minutes for line honours in the old Windward Passage II in 1986, has his sights on the treble. "For an Australian boat to do that in the bicentennial year will be fantastic."

Weather forecasts indicate that the big yachts among the 124-yacht fleet have a good chance of beating the race record of two days and 14 hours set by the American maxi, Kialoa, in 1975 over the 630-nautical mile course.

Much interest will centre on the performance of Veler, a 13.6-metre boat from Vladivostok, the first Soviet yacht to compete in a western ocean race. Its crew, struggling to get used to local conditions, have vowed to finish in the first 10 on corrected time.

ATHLETICS

Nebiolo is asked to resign

Rome (Reuter) — *Corriere dello Sport*, the Italian sports newspaper, reported yesterday that the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) has ordered Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), to resign from his position as president of a commission of inquiry into relations between the Italian

athletics federation (FIDAL) and an athletics track-building consortium.

"It appears that the final report will be submitted to CONI on January 2. By January 10, the date of the next meeting of the National Council, Nebiolo must resign voluntarily," the newspaper reported.

"If Nebiolo does not accept the call to resign, CONI will go ahead autonomously and nominate a special commissioner, in the person of its own president, Arrigo Gattai."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Oilers pin their hopes on running strategy

When the Cleveland Browns beat the Houston Oilers 28-23 on Sunday, both clubs completed the regular season of the National Football League with records of 10 wins and six defeats.

They will face each other today in the American Football Conference (AFC) wild-card play-off, the first round of the Super Bowl tournament. In the National Football Conference wild-card game, the Minnesota Vikings will play host to the Los Angeles Rams on Boxing Day.

The winners will advance to the conference semi-finals next week.

Houston have not lost successive games in 13 months. The Oilers hope to run with the football against the Browns in chilly Cleveland. Rozier surpassed the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the season last week but finished with only 17 yards on 10 carries in the game. Houston were limited to 37 net rushing yards.

If Kosar, the first-choice quarterback of the Browns, is unable to play because of a knee injury, Strock will be ready. Last week the 15-year veteran evaded three first-half interceptions to lead the club.

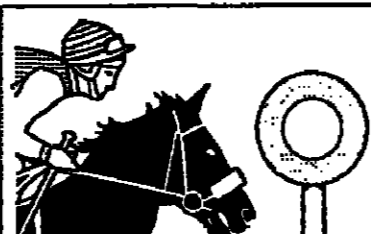
FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York Knicks 88, Detroit Pistons 86; Houston Rockets 128, Los Angeles Lakers 115; Portland Trail Blazers 117, Golden State Warriors 108.
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (EMBA): Greece 88, West Germany 80; Spain 79, Yugoslavia 74; Turkey 74, France 74; Greece 73, Turkey 71; Greece 73, Turkey 71; Greece 73, Turkey 71.

ICE HOCKEY
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montreal Canadiens 4, Boston Bruins 2; Philadelphia Flyers 4, New York Islanders 2; St. Louis Blues 4, Detroit Red Wings 4.
FA CUP: Second round, third replay: Bristol City 1,

THE TIMES

SPORT on Boxing Day



Racing: Full cards and latest news for all eight meetings Plus an exclusive betting offer



Football: Lawrie McMenemy's mid-term report on the battle for the first division



Rugby league: The team that is waking up the championship and a community

Jenkins begins 'club fed' sentence

By Gloria Tierney
David Jenkins, the former British 400 metres record-holder, began his seven-year sentence for illegally importing drugs on Thursday in a low-security prison in the Boro, California.
There are no electric fences topped with barbed wire or guards with rifles patrolling the grounds at Boro, a former air force radar station 19 miles north of Los Angeles, where, instead of cells, prisoners are housed in dormitories, with four inmates to a room.
Jenkins was sent to the minimum security prison because he was not considered a threat to society, according to Sal Seanez, assistant superintendent at the facility.
"The people who are sent here have shown some maturity and responsibility in their lives," Seanez said. "The majority are serving time for drug offences, the rest for what are termed white collar crimes, such as tax evasion or fraud. None is considered violent," he added.
Because of the rural setting, minimum security prisons have come to be called "club feds" or "country club prisons" in the United States. However, many prisoners find the lack of privacy created by the dormitory-style living conditions in these prisons far harder to adjust to than a cell.
While at the prison, Jenkins will be required to work for seven hours a day, for 11 cents an hour. He has not been given a job assignment yet, but the type of work available at the prison includes carpentry, gardening and kitchen help.
How long he will be at Boro will be determined in a few months. Although Jenkins was sentenced to seven years, the parole board will determine how long he serves, according to Charles Alexander, supervisor at the US Probation and Parole Office in San Diego.
The parole board uses a points system based on the prisoner's crime and background to determine the sentence. Under this system a convict, such as Jenkins, who had been given a seven-year sentence, would serve a minimum of one year up to a maximum of two and a half years.
According to Alexander, parole boards seldom veer from the points system. "They were set up," Alexander said, "in an attempt to be fair, and unless they are dealing with a particularly bad offender, they tend to follow the system."

Sansom accepts the chance to revive his career

By Ian Ross
Kenny Sansom, the former England international full-back, yesterday completed his £300,000 move from Arsenal to Newcastle United.
After flying down to Heathrow to discuss the matter with his wife, Sansom telephoned Jim Smith, the Newcastle manager, to say that he was willing to accept the terms of a 2½ year contract. He is expected to make his debut against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Boxing Day.
Smith, who on Thursday completed the signing of Ray Ranson, Birmingham City's experienced right back, admitted that he was relieved that the transfer had been completed and boldly predicted that Sansom would add to his total of 86 full international caps during his time at St James' Park.
Smith said: "Kenny has had enough of playing in the reserves and I think that he realizes that Newcastle is a great place to play your football."
"A lot of people said that he would not be prepared to come this far north but he has proved them wrong. I believe him to be capable of winning back his England place. I am now pleased with my set-up. We have the basics right in defence, and I feel more confident than I did on day one."
Smith said that he was hopeful that Brian Tinnion, Newcastle's current right back, would remain with the club. "Brian agrees that he cannot handle the pressures of the first division at the moment but he is a good player and will learn a lot from Kenny," he said.
Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, announced yesterday that the transfer request submitted by Bruce Grobbelaar, the Zimbabwean international goalkeeper, had been rejected. The matter was discussed at a board meeting on Thursday night but the player was not told of the decision until yesterday morning. "It has been rejected and the player has been informed," Dalglish said.
Grobbelaar, who still has two years of his current contract left to run, has been unable to regain his first team place since his recovery from a bout of meningitis contracted in September.
Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, has opened talks with Trevor Steven, the England international midfielder, about his long-term future. Steven's present contract expires at the end of the season and Harvey will make strenuous attempts, over the next few weeks, to persuade him to remain at Goodison Park for the remainder of his career.
"We are determined to keep him because he is an outstanding footballer who would be very difficult to replace," Harvey said.
Yet, even though Everton are likely to offer Steven a lengthy contract which would guarantee financial security for life he may well decide to seek a move.
If he should decide to leave several leading clubs, both at home and abroad, would be interested. Manchester United and Rangers have been linked with Steven in the past and would not balk at the prospect of having to pay a fee which could well be in excess of £1.5 million.
Wigan Athletic, of the third division, are about to sell John Butler for £100,000 - after buying him for £100 from Prescott Cables six years ago. Wigan have accepted an offer from Stoke City for Butler, who is their longest-serving player.
Butler has proved his versatility by playing in every position in the Wigan side - including goalkeeper - but usually operates as a defender or in midfield.



Net loss: Thorstvedt has to recover the ball from his goal during Tottenham's practice match

A Webber trying to buy Orient

By Dennis Siggy
Julian Lloyd Webber, the cellist, is the key figure behind negotiations that have begun towards the purchase of Leyton Orient in a package deal valued at £1 million (Dennis Siggy writes). An approach is understood to have been made to Tony Wood, the Orient chairman.
Lloyd Webber, aged 37, brother of Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, has been a supporter of Orient since a boy.
"Because of 'fixture problems', the Football Association has declined an invitation to join Italy, Brazil, Argentina and The Netherlands, in the first FIFA indoor world cup next month." Viv Anderson's one-match ban for bringing the game into dispute, imposed on Tuesday, will not be held over until next season when he is fit to resume playing.

Venables is still undecided in his choice of goalkeeper

By Dennis Siggy
Erik Thorstvedt, the Norwegian international goalkeeper signed by Tottenham Hotspur from IFK Gothenburg for £350,000, was under the careful scrutiny of his new manager, Terry Venables, in a specially-arranged private practice match against Chelsea yesterday at the windswept club training ground.
After the 1-1 draw at Mill Hill, Venables remained non-committal about the issue: will Thorstvedt, with 51 caps for Norway, replace Bobby Mimms in the home game against Luton Town on Boxing Day. "I know my team, apart from the goalkeeper," Venables said.
Despite Chelsea fielding a strong side, including Clarke, the Scottish international full-back, McLaughlin, Burnstead, Hazard, the former Tottenham player, and McAllister, Thorstvedt saw little action. A sprinkling of football late in the game with an equally good goal struck by Robson.
Thorstvedt, a tall, confident character, expressed satisfaction that he had successfully passed the first hurdle of his new career. He certainly looks the part, but not even the chairman got a hint whether or not he will be put on display before 30,000 or so fresh "judges" at White Hart Lane on Monday.
While Thorstvedt was on the way in, Peter Guthrie, the first goalkeeper Venables signed (for £100,000 from Weymouth) when he took over at Tottenham, was on his way to Charlton Athletic on loan for one month.
In just over a year in charge at White Hart Lane, Venables has spent £825,000 on goalkeepers alone. Mimms cost £375,000. The only certainty is that Guthrie will not be playing against Luton.
It seemed the bubble had burst. We were next at 20 for eight against our regulary fearsome foes, the Grub Street Casuals. This was Terwin Irregulars at their lowest ebb. Was it worth it? What was the point? Would we ever be able to raise a side again?
Cometh the hour, cometh the man. Me. I am the last of the specialist wicketkeepers, and what I specialize in is dropping the ball. The strongest side of my game is the appeal. So far as I am concerned, batting is a two-horse race: my target is to pinch a run before the Grim Reaper makes his inevitable early entrance. As a batsman, I have always been vulnerable to the straight one.
But something went wrong this day against Grub Street. I played and missed at everything - except the straight ones. These I kept out with a stylish stroke known as the Prod of Panic.
Meanwhile, at the other end, my partner, a real batsman, played us back into the match. The Casuals got crossed and crossed.
For at our darkest hour, the gods of cricket had taken pity on us and, such is their sense of humour, had chosen me as the ludicrous vehicle for the batson of luck.
The decision was made yesterday after they received a letter from the Jockey Club which failed to give them support for their scheme.
Through their company, Rowanglen Limited, the Muddies planned to invest £8.5 million in transforming Nottingham into Britain's second all-weather track.
Earlier this week, Lingfield Park was granted a £1.5 million interest free loan from the Levy Board for a similar scheme.
Richard Muddle said last night: "I think the Jockey Club, through its subsidiary Racecourse Holdings Trust, never had any intention of selling Nottingham."
I see Terwin Irregulars as a vast, creaking and incongruous Heath Robinson device, which, with absurd complexity and dedication worthy of a better cause, lingers, limps, lurches and hops along stretching vistas of schoolboy expectation and the hoary dreams of men who should long since have grown out of it. No, the Irregulars are not lost, not quite. Though nothing can bring back the hour Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower; We will grieve not, rather find Strength in what remains behind.
So said Wordsworth. And we of Terwin Irregulars know all about splendour in the grass.
Sporting Diary, page 10

A day of bliss with the mishits

Simon Barnes
This has been one of the most troubled sporting years in living memory. And I was at the sharp end of it. I tell you, there were times when I truly feared that the end of the Terwin Irregulars was nigh.
Our captain had moved to Cairo for the British Council, and spent the summer teaching Morris dancing to the fellahs. Our opening bats, the not inaptly named Robert Edge, had moved to Kenya. Our first-choice bowler had moved to Dorset where he writes deathless prose and dreams the day he took five wickets and broke the stumps of one of his victims.
In short, it was crisis. Our new captain, John "Salty" Sellers, was in the throes of publishing a cricket book called Eight Days a Week. He and I agreed that, as far as the Irregulars were concerned, eight days a summer would be pushing our luck.
As anyone who has played at this exalted level of cricket knows, these games are won and lost on the telephone. Oh, the anguish of hearing that our pace ace, Gerry Nowicki, the playright, was missing a match to take his play to Edinburgh! Who would answer the call this summer? We began with a rain-soaked defeat, and a wash-out.
A dying breed of wicketkeeper

Awesome prospect at Plough Lane

By Clive White
Plough Lane will be no place for party-goers in a delicate condition on Boxing Day. The sound and sight of Wimbledon's physical, long-ball game coming head to head with that of Millwall's is an awesome prospect.
The clubs may be unpopular, but they are certainly not unfashionable. Their direct style of play is repeated up and down the country. John Docherty, the Millwall manager, merely says: "We play in a way which suits our players."
Docherty makes no attempt to disguise the fact that he is a graduate of the up-and-at-'em school of thought, but objects to the stigma which is attached to a philosophy far more common in the first division than some people imagine.
He is reluctant to discuss the fine differences between the style of his own team, which has two wingers, and that of Bobby Gould's. There can be little doubt that there is, however, a greater purity about Millwall's football in the final third of the field. Wimbledon have not had quality in their final ball since Hodges left the club for Newcastle United.
Millwall are all-square in London derbies, but the Boxing Day fixture, for which they will be at full strength, presents an opportunity not only to improve their standing locally, but also nationally.
Gordon Durie will be available for Chelsea's next game against West Bromwich Albion and Oxford United (Dennis Siggy writes). Durie thought that he would be suspended for reaching 21 disciplinary points, but he has in fact reached only 20.

in principle there is no difference between Pakistan playing against Australia at Adelaide with Alderman in their side and against an England team at Christchurch which includes Graham Gooch and several others with South African "connections." But these are infested waters - and the Pakistan players are in no doubt that, with regard to New Zealand, their board acted under instructions from their government.
Even so, Pakistan's cricketers and politicians alike saw Gooch's appointment as England's captain for India as the last thing in provocation.
On the question of Vivian Richards becoming a "naturalized" Yorkshireman, he himself professes to know no more about it than he reads in the papers and hears on the air. He is more concerned with winning the Test match, "crazy" though the West Indians consider it is to start

Alderman draws token protest

From John Woodcock Melbourne
Forlorn though they seemed, a handful of demonstrators, bearing anti-apartheid placards, turned up at the nets at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday. Their target was Terry Alderman, who is due to make his first Test appearance today since playing for two seasons in South Africa with a "rebel" Australian side.
Although Alderman has already played twice against West Indies and once against Pakistan in the recent one-day internationals, this was the first time voices have been raised in protest. The West Indian players want only to steer clear of controversy.
The Pakistanis, to whom the Alderman issue is more pertinent, on account of their decision not to play against England in New Zealand, feel such matters are best left to their board of control.

No all-weather racing at Nottingham

Roan Muddle and his son, Richard, have abandoned plans to develop Nottingham racecourse into an all-weather track, and now plan to leave racing altogether.
The decision was made yesterday after they received a letter from the Jockey Club which failed to give them support for their scheme.
Through their company, Rowanglen Limited, the Muddies planned to invest £8.5 million in transforming Nottingham into Britain's second all-weather track.
Earlier this week, Lingfield Park was granted a £1.5 million interest free loan from the Levy Board for a similar scheme.
Richard Muddle said last night: "I think the Jockey Club, through its subsidiary Racecourse Holdings Trust, never had any intention of selling Nottingham."
I see Terwin Irregulars as a vast, creaking and incongruous Heath Robinson device, which, with absurd complexity and dedication worthy of a better cause, lingers, limps, lurches and hops along stretching vistas of schoolboy expectation and the hoary dreams of men who should long since have grown out of it. No, the Irregulars are not lost, not quite. Though nothing can bring back the hour Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower; We will grieve not, rather find Strength in what remains behind.
So said Wordsworth. And we of Terwin Irregulars know all about splendour in the grass.
Sporting Diary, page 10

The HARVEY NICHOLS SALE
STARTS WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER
Bargain hunters shopping with their Harvey Nichols Account Card receive an extra 10% off sale prices for the first four days of the sale.
To open an account just visit Customer Account Services on 4 (subject to status), or telephone 01-235 5000.
BAG A BARGAIN!
Opening Times
Tuesday 23 December 10am to 5pm
Wednesday 28 December to Friday 30 December 10am to 5pm
Saturday 31 December 10am to 6pm
KNIGHTSBRIDGE LONDON SW1

Sport in Brief

Graham's dispute
Herold Graham, the British middleweight champion, may take legal action in his dispute with his manager, B J Eastwood.
After the failure of his appeal to be freed from a three-year extension of his contract with Eastwood, Graham yesterday said the ruling by British Boxing Board of Control stewards as "unfair."

Skiing change
Berne (Reuters) - A women's World Cup downhill ski race called off in Altenmarkt, Austria, last week, is to take place in Grindelwald on January 12.
NEWSPAPER RESULTS: January 12: Downhill (for women): 15: down: 16: 19: 20: 21: 22: 23: 24: 25: 26: 27: 28: 29: 30: 31: 32: 33: 34: 35: 36: 37: 38: 39: 40: 41: 42: 43: 44: 45: 46: 47: 48: 49: 50: 51: 52: 53: 54: 55: 56: 57: 58: 59: 60: 61: 62: 63: 64: 65: 66: 67: 68: 69: 70: 71: 72: 73: 74: 75: 76: 77: 78: 79: 80: 81: 82: 83: 84: 85: 86: 87: 88: 89: 90: 91: 92: 93: 94: 95: 96: 97: 98: 99: 100: 101: 102: 103: 104: 105: 106: 107: 108: 109: 110: 111: 112: 113: 114: 115: 116: 117: 118: 119: 120: 121: 122: 123: 124: 125: 126: 127: 128: 129: 130: 131: 132: 133: 134: 135: 136: 137: 138: 139: 140: 141: 142: 143: 144: 145: 146: 147: 148: 149: 150: 151: 152: 153: 154: 155: 156: 157: 158: 159: 160: 161: 162: 163: 164: 165: 166: 167: 168: 169: 170: 171: 172: 173: 174: 175: 176: 177: 178: 179: 180: 181: 182: 183: 184: 185: 186: 187: 188: 189: 190: 191: 192: 193: 194: 195: 196: 197: 198: 199: 200: 201: 202: 203: 204: 205: 206: 207: 208: 209: 210: 211: 212: 213: 214: 215: 216: 217: 218: 219: 220: 221: 222: 223: 224: 225: 226: 227: 228: 229: 230: 231: 232: 233: 234: 235: 236: 237: 238: 239: 240: 241: 242: 243: 244: 245: 246: 247: 248: 249: 250: 251: 252: 253: 254: 255: 256: 257: 258: 259: 260: 261: 262: 263: 264: 265: 266: 267: 268: 269: 270: 271: 272: 273: 274: 275: 276: 277: 278: 279: 280: 281: 282: 283: 284: 285: 286: 287: 288: 289: 290: 291: 292: 293: 294: 295: 296: 297: 298: 299: 300: 301: 302: 303: 304: 305: 306: 307: 308: 309: 310: 311: 312: 313: 314: 315: 316: 317: 318: 319: 320: 321: 322: 323: 324: 325: 326: 327: 328: 329: 330: 331: 332: 333: 334: 335: 336: 337: 338: 339: 340: 341: 342: 343: 344: 345: 346: 347: 348: 349: 350: 351: 352: 353: 354: 355: 356: 357: 358: 359: 360: 361: 362: 363: 364: 365: 366: 367: 368: 369: 370: 371: 372: 373: 374: 375: 376: 377: 378: 379: 380: 381: 382: 383: 384: 385: 386: 387: 388: 389: 390: 391: 392: 393: 394: 395: 396: 397: 398: 399: 400: 401: 402: 403: 404: 405: 406: 407: 408: 409: 410: 411: 412: 413: 414: 415: 416: 417: 418: 419: 420: 421: 422: 423: 424: 425: 426: 427: 428: 429: 430: 431: 432: 433: 434: 435: 436: 437: 438: 439: 440: 441: 442: 443: 444: 445: 446: 447: 448: 449: 450: 451: 452: 453: 454: 455: 456: 457: 458: 459: 460: 461: 462: 463: 464: 465: 466: 467: 468: 469: 470: 471: 472: 473: 474: 475: 476: 477: 478: 479: 480: 481: 482: 483: 484: 485: 486: 487: 488: 489: 490: 491: 492: 493: 494: 495: 496: 497: 498: 499: 500: 501: 502: 503: 504: 505: 506: 507: 508: 509: 510: 511: 512: 513: 514: 515: 516: 517: 518: 519: 520: 521: 522: 523: 524: 525: 526: 527: 528: 529: 530: 531: 532: 533: 534: 535: 536: 537: 538: 539: 540: 541: 542: 543: 544: 545: 546: 547: 548: 549: 550: 551: 552: 553: 554: 555: 556: 557: 558: 559: 560: 561: 562: 563: 564: 565: 566: 567: 568: 569: 570: 571: 572: 573: 574: 575: 576: 577: 578: 579: 580: 581: 582: 583: 584: 585: 586: 587: 588: 589: 590: 591: 592: 593: 594: 595: 596: 597: 598: 599: 600: 601: 602: 603: 604: 605: 606: 607: 608: 609: 610: 611: 612: 613: 614: 615: 616: 617: 618: 619: 620: 621: 622: 623: 624: 625: 626: 627: 628: 629: 630: 631: 632: 633: 634: 635: 636: 637: 638: 639: 640: 641: 642: 643: 644: 645: 646: 647: 648: 649: 650: 651: 652: 653: 654: 655: 656: 657: 658: 659: 660: 661: 662: 663: 664: 665: 666: 667: 668: 669: 670: 671: 672: 673: 674: 675: 676: 677: 678: 679: 680: 681: 682: 683: 684: 685: 686: 687: 688: 689: 690: 691: 692: 693: 694: 695: 696: 697: 698: 699: 700: 701: 702: 703: 704: 705: 706: 707: 708: 709: 710: 711: 712: 713: 714: 715: 716: 717: 718: 719: 720: 721: 722: 723: 724: 725: 726: 727: 728: 729: 730: 731: 732: 733: 734: 735: 736: 737: 738: 739: 740: 741: 742: 743: 744: 745: 746: 747: 748: 749: 750: 751: 752: 753: 754: 755: 756: 757: 758: 759: 760: 761: 762: 763: 764: 765: 766: 767: 768: 769: 770: 771: 772: 773: 774: 775: 776: 777: 778: 779: 780: 781: 782: 783: 784: 785: 786: 787: 788: 789: 790: 791: 792: 793: 794: 795: 796: 797: 798: 799: 800: 801: 802: 803: 804: 805: 806: 807: 808: 809: 810: 811: 812: 813: 814: 815: 816: 817: 818: 819: 820: 821: 822: 823: 824: 825: 826: 827: 828: 829: 830: 831: 832: 833: 834: 835: 836: 837: 838: 839: 840: 841: 842: 843: 844: 845: 846: 847: 848: 849: 850: 851: 852: 853: 854: 855: 856: 857: 858: 859: 860: 861: 862: 863: 864: 865: 866: 867: 868: 869: 870: 871: 872: 873: 874: 875: 876: 877: 878: 879: 880: 881: 882: 883: 884: 885: 886: 887: 888: 889: 890: 891: 892: 893: 894: 895: 896: 897: 898: 899: 900: 901: 902: 903: 904: 905: 906: 907: 908: 909: 910: 911: 912: 913: 914: 915: 916: 917: 918: 919: 920: 921: 922: 923: 924: 925: 926: 927: 928: 929: 930: 931: 932: 933: 934: 935: 936: 937: 938: 939: 940: 941: 942: 943: 944: 945: 946: 947: 948: 949: 950: 951: 952: 953: 954: 955: 956: 957: 958: 959: 960: 961: 962: 963: 964: 965: 966: 967: 968: 969: 970: 971: 972: 973: 974: 975: 976: 977: 978: 979: 980: 981: 982: 983: 984: 985: 986: 987: 988: 989: 990: 991: 992: 993: 994: 995: 996: 997: 998: 999: 1000

Murphy stays

Alex Murphy, the St Helens rugby league manager, has been given a further two-year contract.

Exhausted Davis pulls out of rankings event

By Steve Acteson
Steve Davis, the world snooker champion, has withdrawn from the European Open at Deauville, in northern France, from January 30 to February 11, citing exhaustion as the reason.
Davis will lose the chance of earning world ranking points but he is so far ahead of his nearest challenger, Jimmy White, that his position as world No. 1 cannot be threatened by his withdrawal.
Davis said: "I have been playing and working non-stop since the season started. I am exhausted and badly in need of a rest in the new year. I do not like missing any tournaments but if I need to take a break then the European Open seems the logical choice because at least I am not letting down an existing sponsor or UK television."
His manager, Barry Hearn, said: "Steve has been under tremendous pressure for many years now and although I don't like any of my players to miss ranking tournaments I can fully understand his position."
The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association has rearranged its annual meeting, which was due to take place in Bristol on December 29.

A dying breed of wicketkeeper

It seemed the bubble had burst. We were next at 20 for eight against our regularly fearsome foes, the Grub Street Casuals. This was Terwin Irregulars at their lowest ebb. Was it worth it? What was the point? Would we ever be able to raise a side again?
Cometh the hour, cometh the man. Me. I am the last of the specialist wicketkeepers, and what I specialize in is dropping the ball. The strongest side of my game is the appeal. So far as I am concerned, batting is a two-horse race: my target is to pinch a run before the Grim Reaper makes his inevitable early entrance. As a batsman, I have always been vulnerable to the straight one.
But something went wrong this day against Grub Street. I played and missed at everything - except the straight ones. These I kept out with a stylish stroke known as the Prod of Panic.
Meanwhile, at the other end, my partner, a real batsman, played us back into the match. The Casuals got crossed and crossed.
For at our darkest hour, the gods of cricket had taken pity on us and, such is their sense of humour, had chosen me as the ludicrous vehicle for the batson of luck.
The decision was made yesterday after they received a letter from the Jockey Club which failed to give them support for their scheme.
Through their company, Rowanglen Limited, the Muddies planned to invest £8.5 million in transforming Nottingham into Britain's second all-weather track.
Earlier this week, Lingfield Park was granted a £1.5 million interest free loan from the Levy Board for a similar scheme.
Richard Muddle said last night: "I think the Jockey Club, through its subsidiary Racecourse Holdings Trust, never had any intention of selling Nottingham."
I see Terwin Irregulars as a vast, creaking and incongruous Heath Robinson device, which, with absurd complexity and dedication worthy of a better cause, lingers, limps, lurches and hops along stretching vistas of schoolboy expectation and the hoary dreams of men who should long since have grown out of it. No, the Irregulars are not lost, not quite. Though nothing can bring back the hour Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower; We will grieve not, rather find Strength in what remains behind.
So said Wordsworth. And we of Terwin Irregulars know all about splendour in the grass.
Sporting Diary, page 10

Crash and explosion seeks for Locker
Body
Med